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THE HINDU on Sunday

AUGUST 14, 2022

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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PM felicitates Indian contingent for CWG success
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NEARBY

'Exercise caution while dealing in crypto'

BENGALURU

Caution is the word as all that is floating around is not currency, cautioned Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman referring to cryptocurrency. She was speaking here on Saturday at an event organised by the BJP Economic Cell to release its souvenir. She urged the public and start-up entrepreneurs to deal in cryptocurrency with caution.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

Five years after SC verdict, talaq petitioners living as 'half-divorcees'

Their husbands haven't taken them back and they cannot remarry either

ZIYA US SALAM
NEW DELHI

Five years after the Supreme Court's five-judge Bench under Chief Justice J.S. Khehar invalidated instant triple talaq in August 2017, the women petitioners continue to live a life of half-divorcees. Technically still married, practically divorced, they enjoy no conjugal rights nor receive any regular maintenance from the estranged husbands. Practically abandoned, the women cannot remarry in the absence of a legally valid divorce. After the verdict, none of the men were visited by law enforcement bodies and told to take back their wives. Further, no arrests could be made for giving instant triple talaq as the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 came into force long after pronouncement of instant talaq.

A cloud of confusion hangs in the air as the women are uncertain of their eligibility for a fresh marriage. The top court, it may be recalled, invalidated instant triple talaq in the *Shayara Bano versus the Union of India* case while refraining from commenting on the state of their marriages directly. The women had gone to court seeking redress as the victims of instant triple talaq. However, after the court had set aside *Talaq-e-Biddat* or instant triple talaq, the husbands of the petitioners failed to accept them back in marriage. Many of the men, meanwhile, have gone on to get married again, and sired children. Even as they toil through life, none of the women have opted to exercise *khula*, a woman's inalienable right to divorce, either.

No relief: The landmark verdict has made little difference to women who were given instant talaq. • A.M.FARUQUI

Says Shayara Bano whose petition against instant talaq by husband Rizwan Ahmed resulted in the landmark verdict, "My husband established no contact to restore marriage after the judgment. Legally, I am still married to him."

She has not sought to end marriage through *khula* either. "I am fighting for the custody of my children. My son is 18, daughter 15. I only get to see them in court. I want to speak to them at least on phone but it is not possible. For two years due to the pandemic, there were only online hearings. So I have not seen them since then. My husband though has remarried."

SPECIAL

No alimony

After the historic verdict, Ms. Bano was made the vice-president of the Uttarkhand Women's Commission, a position she continues to hold. At one time, she had to even leave her parental place in Kashipur due to social outrage over her decision.

Says Ishrat Jahan, one of the petitioners whose marriage was said to have ended when her Dubai-based husband Murtaza Ansari pronounced talaq on phone, "Everybody welcomed the court verdict but what did I gain? Nothing. No alimony, no maintenance. My husband got married again then offered to take me back. His family even denies he said *talaq, talaq, talaq*. I cannot now go back to him. He has not sent me a legally valid *talaqnama* nor have I taken divorce though *khula*."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Chennai loan firm looted of 32 kg of pledged gold

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

In a gold heist, three men allegedly looted a loan company of about 32 kg of jewellery pledged by its customers here on Saturday.

The police put the value of the loot at ₹16 crore, and said three suspects – a staff member and his associates, targeted the Fedbank-Gold Loans office on the busy Razak Garden Main Road at Arumbakkam in the afternoon, when the branch was closed and there was not much activity.

"Three staffers were at the office. One of them went out and minutes later, three in masks barged in. They dragged the two staffers, one man and one woman, and the security guard into the washroom before taking the keys to the strongroom. They looted all jewellery from the vault and fled on motorbikes," officials said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Rushdie on ventilator with damaged liver, eye

ASSOCIATED PRESS
REUTERS
MAYVILLE

Salman Rushdie remained hospitalised on Saturday after suffering serious injuries in a stabbing attack, which was met with shock and outrage from much of the world, along with tributes for the award-winning author who for over 30 years has faced death threats for his novel, *The Satanic Verses*.

Mr. Rushdie, 75, suffered a damaged liver, severed nerves in an arm and an eye, and was on a ventilator, his agent Andrew Wylie said. He was likely to lose the injured eye.

Mr. Rushdie's alleged attacker, Hadi Matar, is from New Jersey. He was born in the U.S. to Lebanese parents. His social media accounts showed he was sympathetic to Shia extremism and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

China ship to dock on Tuesday as Colombo gives green signal

'Consent on condition that no scientific research is done in Sri Lankan waters'

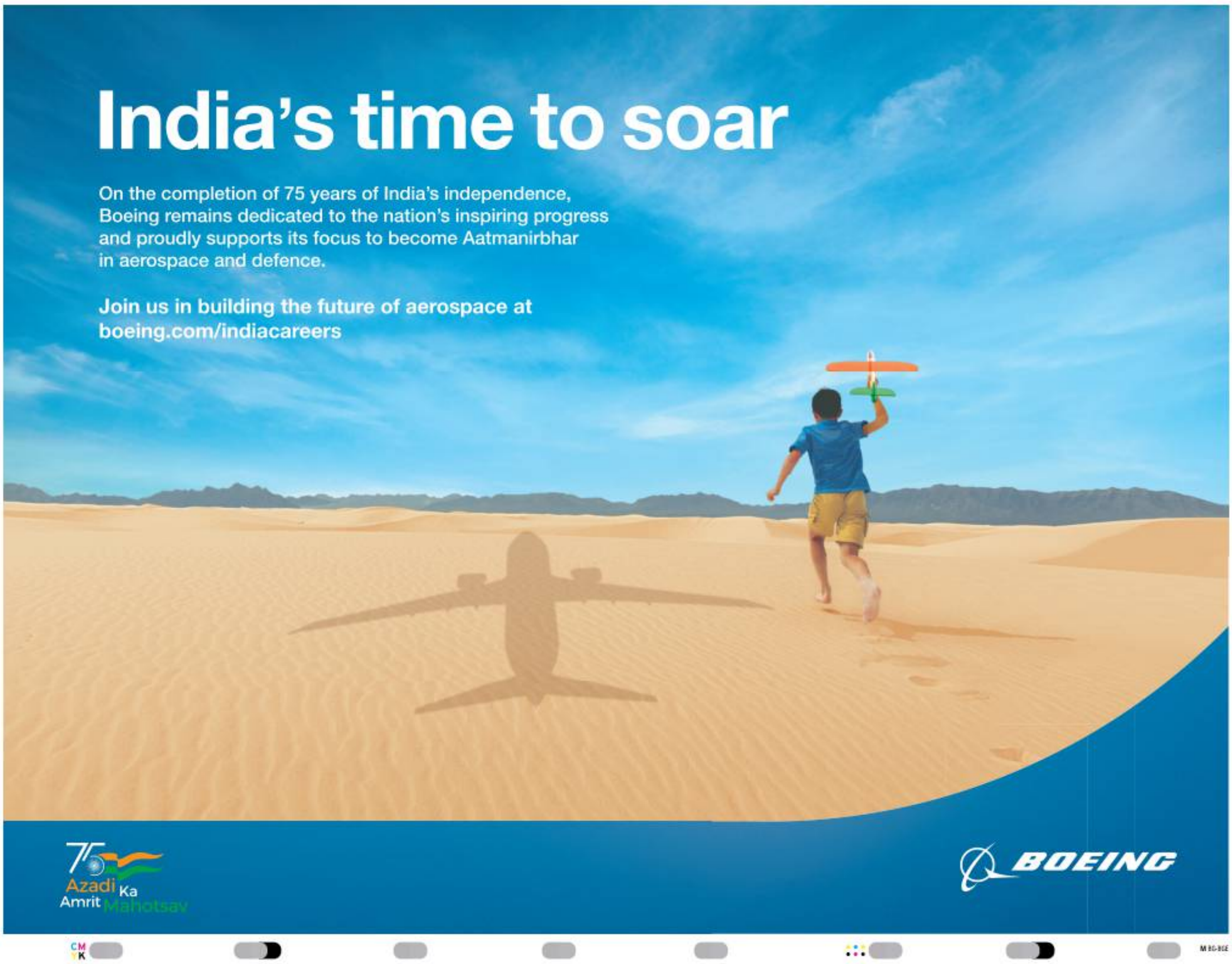
MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Saturday cleared the arrival of Chinese space and satellite tracking vessel *Yuan Wang 5* on August 16 at the southern Hambantota port, a day after New Delhi reiterated its security concerns over the vessel's entry earlier scheduled on August 11.

Even as Colombo was put on a delicate diplomatic spot, dealing with two of its close partners with competing geostrategic interests on the island, Sri Lanka's fresh approval, announced by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement, effectively points to a five-day postponement of the arrival of the Chinese ship, and a week's stop as was earlier planned. The Ministry said it held "extensive consultations" at a high level through diplomatic channels with "all parties" concerned, with a view to resolving the matter in a spirit of "friendship, mutual trust and constructive dialogue, taking into account the interests of all parties concerned".

While it said the developments were "in light of certain concerns raised with the Ministry", it stopped short of naming India in its statement.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7



Solemn start: Hormazd Kumana offers traditional prayers at home in Udvada.

Parsi paradise

The coastal town of Udvada is a celebration of Parsi culture and tradition

TEXT AND IMAGES BY VIJAY SONEJI

It is 1.30 p.m. on a bright Sunday in Udvada in Gujarat. Rohinton Irani, owner of the Irani Bakery in Udvada, gets a call on his mobile phone. He smiles broadly as his friend Arvind Golakiya, an industrialist in Vapi, tells him that he is arriving in a few minutes. With a friendship that spans three decades, they know what their next stop is going to be: a lavish lunch at Rohinton's Heritage Home in the small town.

The coastal town of Udvada is home to the most sacred of Zoroastrian fire temples in India. The fire temple in the town draws Zoroastrian pilgrims from all parts of India and from around the world. But other tourists too visit the town for the Parsi cuisine it offers in many restaurants.

The Parsis, a Zoroastrian community, came to Gujarat from Iran following its conquest by Arab Muslims in the seventh century.

The immigrants were granted permission to stay by the local ruler, on the condition that they adopt the local language (Gujarati) and that their women adopt the local dress (the sari).

Udvada was one of the places that the Paris chose to settle in. They promised the ruler that they would mix with the local community, just like sugar in milk. Navsari, Daman, Valsad, Surat and Mumbai are some of the other towns and cities that they settled in.

Parsi heritage is clearly visible in Udvada. Every home has a traditional well. Earthen lamps are lit in most homes. The 'Bawaji chair', which has long arms on which a person can put up his feet to rest, is a common household item.

Meticulous craft: A museum worker displays a handcrafted religious symbol.

Ready for a ride: Paurusasp Magol with his horse.

One for the album: A family from Mumbai at the fire temple.

Cooling down: People enjoying the sea breeze in the coastal town.

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[1]Battery life varies by use and configuration. See apple.com/batteries for more information.
[2]The display on the 35.56 cm MacBook Pro has rounded corners at the top. When measured as a standard rectangular shape, the screen is 35.97 cm diagonally (actual viewable area is less).

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, AUG. 14	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:41
RISE 20:47	SET 08:09
MONDAY, AUG. 15	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:41
RISE 21:28	SET 09:03
TUESDAY, AUG. 16	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:40
RISE 22:07	SET 09:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain or thundershower is a chance at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be mostly dry Day will be slight wrm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Motorists on ORR have a harrowing time

To facilitate repair work, MES Ring Road Muthayala Nagar flyover (RoB) will remain closed till August 17

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Motorists using ORR from Hebbal towards Tumakuru Road faced a harrowing time during the peak hours on Saturday. Unaware of the traffic diversion to facilitate urgent repair works on MES Ring Road Muthyala Nagar flyover (railway overbridge), motorists were stranded for hours in traffic.

The traffic police have banned all types of vehicles on the flyover from August 13 to 17. The police said that South Western Railway (SWR) approached them seeking diversion of traffic to take up repair works on the RoB. The repair work involves replacement of old expansion joints with new ones.

On the first day of imposing restrictions, traffic piled up for kilometres on the left side of the ORR from Hebbal towards Tumakuru Road. Traffic police claimed that no heavy vehicles will be allowed on the road, but many trucks and other heavy vehicles were seen.

Chetan Gowda, a taxi driver, said, "I was not aware about traffic diversion. Assuming that on weekend traffic would be low, I took the ORR, but was stuck for over one hour. Traffic police should have informed the people well in advance about the diversions." At BEL circle, on either side of the underpass, the traffic police barricaded the road and allowed only bike riders to go towards Muthyala Nagar. Rest of the vehicles were diverted towards Sadashivanagar side.

Work being taken up on MES Ring Road Muthyala Nagar flyover in Bengaluru. • SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

People who were travelling in city buses also suffered as buses were stuck for a long time in the traffic.

Many passengers were seen getting down from the bus to walk. Sreedhara, a city bus passenger, said, "I wanted to go to Goraguntepalya. . As I was stuck for more than 40 minutes on the bus, instead of waiting for traffic to clear, I decided to get down from the bus and started walking. Like me, many people got down from the bus. On weekdays, people will suffer more as there will be more traffic on this road."

Sachin S., a biker, said, "Authorities took many years to open this flyover for motorists. This flyover is of little use as it fails to accommodate heavy traffic coming from either side of the ORR. The lanes are narrow and cannot have more traffic. Now, authorities have closed the road for repair work. They should plan other alternatives to clear the congestion on this stretch of the ORR."

Police have maintained that they have taken several measures to inform the public about the traffic diversion in advance.

DCP traffic of West Division Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain said, "Saturday being the first day of closure of the flyover, many motorists were unaware of the diversions through social media, display of banners at the different junctions and other forms. Considering the safety of the motorists, repair works had to be taken up and the SWR had sought five days. During the closure of the flyover, we are not allowing heavy vehicles on this road." The official said that over 75 home guards and additional traffic police personnel have been deployed at various places to divert traffic.

"Nowadays, a majority of the people look for Google Maps while travelling within the city limits. As usual, we had approached the officials concerned in Google to show alternatives available to travel from Hebbal side towards Goraguntepalya on the map," he added.

Session on Voter Helpline App

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Political Action Committee, along with Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka, on Saturday, organised sessions on the amendments to the voter registration forms and demonstration of the Voter Helpline App. Various apartment federation communities and citizen forum representatives were part of the event where the CEO explained about the app, which facilitates registrations of voter IDs and linking of Aadhaar with EPIC card.

CM, Ministers pledge to donate organs

Three donors honoured with a special mention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

To promote organ donation and encourage more people to pledge organs, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar pledged their organs on Saturday.

Apart from the Chief Minister and Health Minister, a few other Ministers and many officials also pledged their organs at a programme organised by the State Health Department to mark World Organ Donation Day on Saturday.

The Chief Minister, who felicitated donor families for their generosity even during grief, said organ donation is one of the precious gifts one can consider giving. "One organ can save eight people. Organ donation is a wonderful chance for everyone to live on even after death," he said speaking at the event held in front of the Vidhana Soudha.

He made a special mention of three donors – Markonahalli Krishnappa, Sanchari Vijay, and Naveen Kumar – whose families did not think twice before donating organs of their dear ones after they were declared brain dead. A few organ recipients also shared their thoughts on the occasion.

Over 5,000 people, including ASHA workers, formed a kidney-shaped human chain at Tripura Vasini on Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

WORLD ORGAN DONATION DAY

Human chain
To mark World Organ Day and create awareness about organ donation, over 5,000 people, including ASHA workers, formed a human chain from Mekhri Circle in the city to Freedom Park. The participants also formed a kidney-shaped image at Tripura Vasini on Palace Grounds.

To mark the day, Aster CMI Hospital organised an organ pledging drive at the hospital. The drive mobilised over 100 pledges by doctors, nurses, and staff from the hospital along with people visiting the hospital. Also, doctors narrated inspiring stories of those unsung heroes who have donated organs and saved lives. During the awareness drive, the transplant team at the hospital spoke on the importance of organ donation, followed by a live interactive session.

The drive concluded by observing a moment of silence for those who died in the tragic cases and their organs were donated to save others' lives. To pay tribute and honour their ultimate sacrifice, top doctors and surgeons at the hospital lit up candles in their names.

Walkathon
SPARSH Hospital organised a five-km walkathon to build awareness and sensitise the public about the need for organ donation. The event was flagged off at SPARSH Hospital in R.R. Nagar. Over 500 people participated in the walkathon, pledging their support to the cause.

As a token of appreciation and gratitude, the hospital handed over donor privilege cards to the families of all the donors at the hospital. The donor privilege card has a lifetime validity and offers an array of benefits that can be accessed across all units of SPARSH Hospitals in Karnataka.

Donor recognition wall
BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital, Kengeri, unveiled a donor recognition wall to mark the day. The donor wall was inaugurated on the hospital premises on Friday. It is located outside the main entrance of the hospital and measures 8 ft in length and 22.5 ft in width. The structure is the largest constructed wall of honour in India so far, with a capacity to accommodate up to 500 donor names in its first phase, claimed a statement from the hospital. A second phase of expansion on either side of the current wall has been provisioned for the future; increasing the total capacity to about 1,500 names, the statement added.

25-year-old techie falls to death from 10th floor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old techie fell to death from the terrace of a 10-storey apartment in Bellandur in the wee hours of Saturday. The deceased, Tridip Konwar, reportedly had gone to the terrace to take bottles of liquor when the incident occurred.

According to the police, Konwar, a native of Assam, was working for a software company located in Whitefield, and was staying with his friend in a flat.

The police said Konwar and his flatmate, on Friday night, partied along with a few friends in the house of one of them in Kasavanahalli. They returned to the flat around 2.30 a.m.

When they were getting in, they met two residents of another flat, who informed them that they had been partying on the terrace, and asked Konwar and his flatmate to join them. The duo, who were already heavily drunk, agreed.

The two residents, who were partying on the terrace, told Konwar that they had left behind bottles of liquor on the terrace. Konwar and one of the residents, decided to go up, get the bottles, and continue partying in the flat of one of them.

On the 10th floor, the duo had to climb a ladder to reach the parapet. While climbing the ladder, Konwar lost balance and fell on to the ground, the police said.

He sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. The security guards and residents of the other flats rushed down on hearing a thud.

The Bellandur police, who were alerted, reached the spot and shifted Konwar's body to a mortuary. They are waiting for his parents to come to the city.

Felicitation

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As part of the I-Day celebration, Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society will honour 16 sales assistants serving in the sales department of HOPCOMS.

They will be felicitated at the programme to be held at its head office.

Four arrested in honeytrap case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Halasuru Gate police on Saturday arrested a gang of four people for allegedly honeytrapping and extorting nearly ₹15 lakh from a 73-year-old businessman.

Among the accused is a 24-year-old man identified as Yuvaraj from Chikkamagaluru, who acted in a Kannada film recently.

According to the police, Yuvaraj hatched a plan and sent his friend to the businessman, who befriended him and videographed their private conversation, using which they started blackmailing him.

Yuvaraj, posing as a CCB officer, met the businessman on the pretext of inquiry into a complaint filed against him.

Over a period of a week – from August 3 to 10 – Yuvaraj allegedly extorted ₹14.9 lakh from the businessman at least on three occasions. But when he demanded more money, suspecting that he was not a policeman, the businessman approached the police and filed a complaint of criminal conspiracy, extortion, cheating and criminal intimidation on Yuvaraj and the others.

Yuvaraj was running a gym equipment showroom at J.P. Nagar. He has been arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

The recovery of the extorted money is still under process, the police added.

Vocal concert

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Gayana Samaja is organising an Independence concert on Monday between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Rahul K. Ravindran will render Carnatic classical vocal. The programme will be held on the Gayana Samaja premises on K.R. Road.

DOCUMENT LOST

This is to bring to the notice of general public that I Jai Singh s/o Balaji Singh, Lakkur, Malur tq. Kolar dist, have lost my original sale deeds while shifting my house on 19-05-2020, bearing sy nos 285/1 and 285/2 lakkur village bearing documents no MLR-01-01266/06-07 CD no MLRD 19 and reg.no. 631/86-87in the office of the Sub-registrar malur. Inspite of my best efforts the above said original sale deeds is not traceable and in this regard complaint has been lodged in the concerned police authority on 11-08-2022, vide lost report no 0291105/2022. If anybody finds the above said documents or is in possession please hand over the same to the above said address or contact me on mob: 9900319242

Stage set for Independence Day celebrations in city

After two years of pandemic, this is the first time that a huge crowd will be gathering at the event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The stage is set for the 75th Independence Day celebrations at Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground here on August 15.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said that around 2,400 children from various schools in the city will perform in various cultural events to celebrate.

After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the first time that Independence Day celebrations will see a huge crowd gathering at the event.

A total of 8,000 seats have been earmarked for the public, VVIPs, VIPs and special invitees, said City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy and Mr. Giri Nath after the final rehearsal for the event on Saturday.

Armed personnel during the full dress rehearsal for I-Day celebrations in Bengaluru on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will be received by senior officials of the three wings of the armed forces at 8.55 a.m., following which he will hoist the national flag at 9 a.m. He will receive a guard of honour from personnel from Karnataka State Reserve Police, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, City Armed Reserve, Karnataka State Industrial Security Force, traffic police, women police, home guards, traffic wardens, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, and dog squad.

"The parade will conclude at 11.20 a.m. Around 1,700 police personnel will be guarding the event," said Mr. Reddy.

"As part of security measures, 100 CCTV cameras and four baggage scanners have been installed. Ambulances and fire tenders will be on standby in case of any emergency," he added.

As an additional security measure, vehicular movement will be prohibited from 8.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Cubbon Road (between B.R.V. Junction and Kamaraj Road Junction). Motorists cannot park their vehicles on Central Street (Anil Kumble Circle to Shivajinagar bus stand), Cubbon Road (CTO Junction to K.R. Road), or M.G. Road (Anil Kumble Circle to Queen's Statue).

After the State government directed the Assistant Commissioner of Bengaluru North to hoist the national flag and celebrate Independence Day at Idgah Maidan in Chamarajpet in Bengaluru, the Police Commissioner said that the police have made all security arrangements in the ground and if the situation demands, an additional force of police will be deployed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner: **M/s JAI SHREE SHYAM PLYWOODS PRIVATE LIMITED,** having its office at No.76, 1st Stage, 5th Phase, 60ft Road, Shivanahalli, Bangalore-560079, represented by its Director: Mr. NAVEEN PODDAR S/o Mr. Vijay Kumar Poddar.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of an immovable property bearing Municipal No.8/05, PID No.63-95-8/05, measuring East to West 36ft an North to South (43+40)/2ft, in all measuring 1494 Sq.ft., with a building thereon comprised of ground and five upper floors, situated at 1st Cross, Suddaguntepalya, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property of Mr.S.R.Venkatappa
West by : Property No.8/4
North by: Property belongs to Mr.S.R.Krishnappa and Mr.S.R.Venktesh
South by: Corporation Road

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

IN THE COURT OF THE VIII ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 21/2021

BETWEEN
1. Smt. Jayashree
Aged about 43 years,
D/o Sri. Basavaraju.
2. Smt. Bharathi K.B.
Aged about 42 years,
D/o Sri. Basavaraju.
3. Smt. K.B. Sheela
Aged about 40 years,
D/o Sri. Basavaraju.
All Residing at Kalenahalli Village,
Hessaraghatta Hobli,
Bangalore-560089
...Plaintiffs.

V/s.

Sri. Basavaraju and others
...Defendants.

NOTICE TO DEFFANDANT No. 4

Sri. K.N.Prakash.
Aged about 59 years
S/o Late G.Nagappa,
Kalenahalli Village, Hessaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

Whereas, the Plaintiffs have filed the above suit against the Defendants seeking for partition over suit schedule properties of their respective 1/5th share each in the suit schedule properties, Declaration and Permanent Injunction.

Hence, you are hereby requested to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you in this suit **on 09-09-2022 at 11-00 A.M.**

If you fail to appear on the fixed date the suit will be heard and decided in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1
All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Sy.No.58/1, measuring 1 acre 10 guntas,** out of 1 acre 20 guntas, situated at Mathakur Village, Hessaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on:
East by : Land belonging to K.C.Basavaiah
West by : Remaining portion of the same property belonging K. N. Pillappa
North by : Land belonging to J. Nagappa
South by : Land belonging to K.C. Basavaiah

Item No. 2
All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Sy.No.58/1, measuring 10 guntas,** situated at Mathakur Village, Hessaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on:
East by : Land belonging to K.N.Prakash
West by : Land belonging to K.N.Pillappa
North by : Land belonging to J. Nagappa
South by : Land belonging to K.C. Basavaiah

Given under my hand and seal of this Court this 11th day of August, 2022.

By Order of the Court,
Sd/- Chief Ministrial Office
Senior Civil Judge's Court,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore.

Address of the Advocate
R. Shailesh Kumar
M/s. SUSHEEL ASSOCIATES,
Law Firm
F-1, 1st Floor, 'Harshita Arcade',
No.138, 1st Main, Sheshadripuram,
Bengaluru-20 Mobile : 9845009771

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RN No. KAREMG/2020/49960 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Scented sticks :Firoz Dastur with his stock of sandalwood in his home-cum-shop.

Cultural delight: The main entrance of the Parsi Museum in Udvada.

Tasty enterprise: Rohinton Irani at the Irani Bakery.

Tall icon: The birthplace of Jamsedji Tata in Navsari, which is about 75 km from Udvada.

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THE HINDU on Sunday

AUGUST 14, 2022

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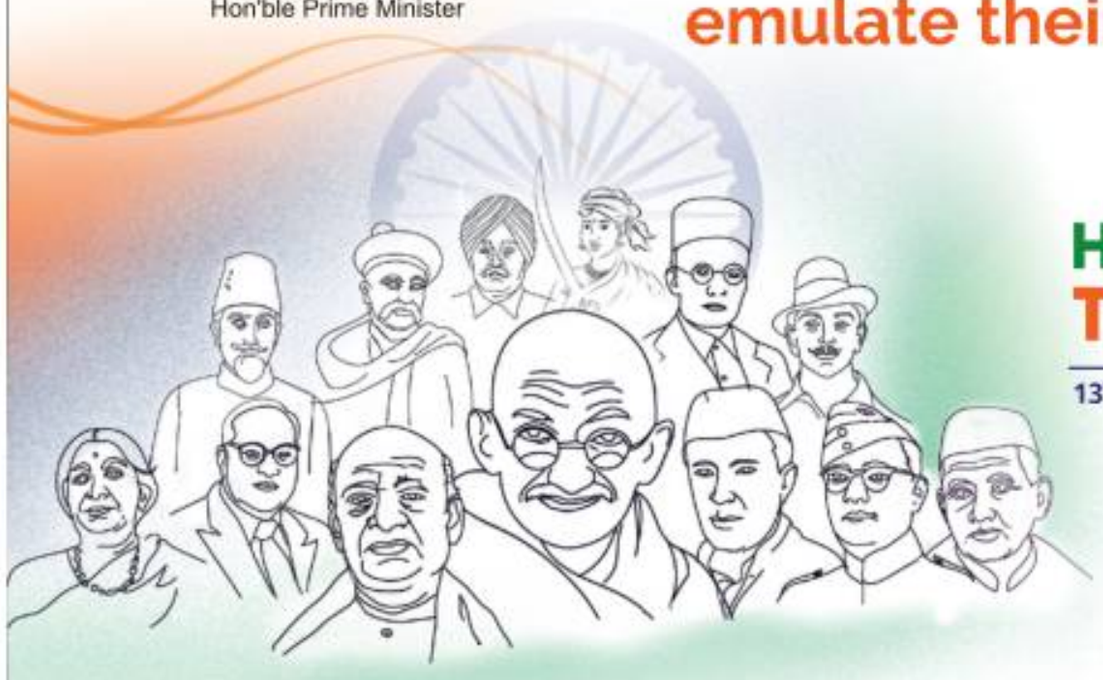
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

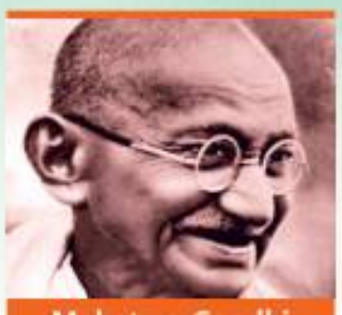
Let's be inspired by the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and emulate their selfless patriotism.



Har Ghar Tiranga
13th - 15th August 2022

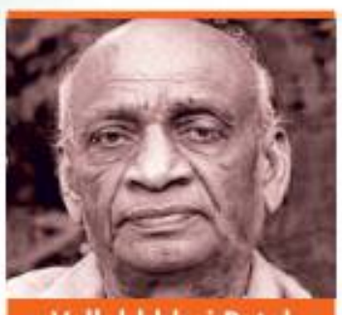
The history of India's independence movement is filled with the sacrifices of millions of Indians. Today, as we celebrate India's 76th year of independence, we must remember and pay tribute to them and take the pledge to emulate their selfless patriotism.

Jhansi Rani Lakshmibai: An epitome of bravery and courage, Rani Laxmibai strapped her son Damodar Rao on her back and fought the British bravely.

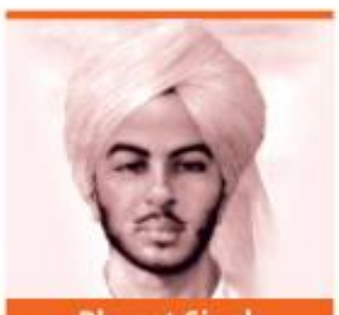


Mahatma Gandhi
Known as the 'Father of the Nation', he used Truth and Non-violence as weapons to fight the British and gave a new direction to India's freedom struggle.

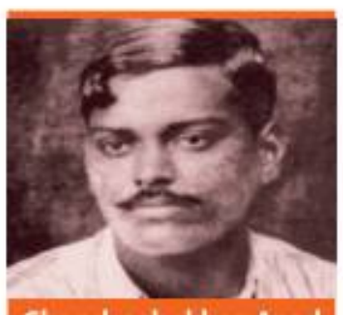
Subhash Chandra Bose
A great patriot, he gave the slogan **"Give Me Blood, and I Will Give You Freedom"** and inspired millions of youth to join the freedom struggle.



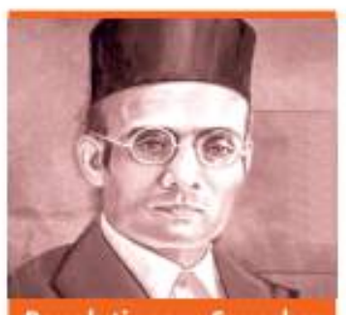
Vallabhbhai Patel
Known as the **Iron Man of India**, he single handedly steered the integration of India. He earned the title 'Sardar' for his participation in Bardoli campaign.



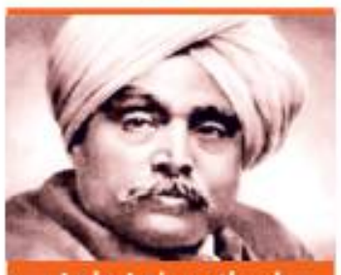
Bhagat Singh
The brave Bhagat Singh held firmly to his values of patriotism till his death and was one of India's most radical revolutionaries. He was sentenced to death at the age of 23.



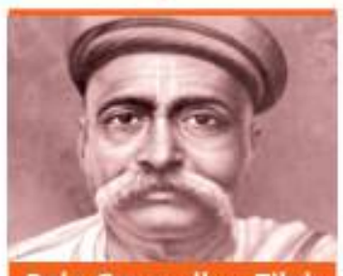
Chandrashekhar Azad
An Indian revolutionary who organized and led a band of militant youth during India's independence movement. He shot himself dead because he had vowed British Police would never arrest him.



Revolutionary Savarkar
Vinayak Damodar Savarkar published several books which advocated obtaining complete independence through revolutionary means. He was imprisoned in Andaman-Nicobar and subjected to excessive torture.

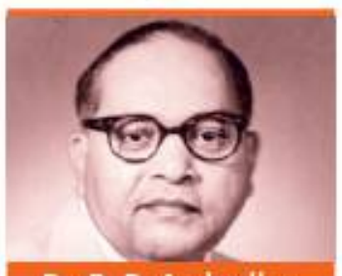


Lala Lajapathrai
Known as Punjab Kesari, he died in a Lathi charge by the British during a Simon Commission demonstration in 1928.

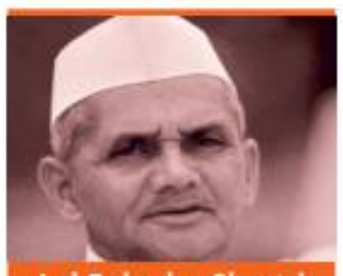


Bala Gangadhar Tilak
An outstanding Indian freedom fighter, he initiated the slogan "Swaraj is My Birthright." He started schools and published periodicals to resist the British rulers.

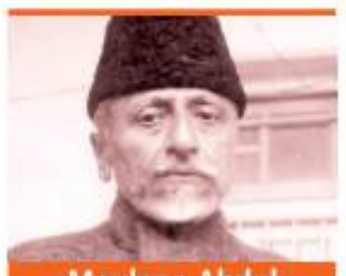
Bipin Chandra Pal
Known as the Bengal Tiger, he encouraged people to boycott goods and shops of the Britishers. One of the main architects of Swadeshi Movement.



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
The architect of the Indian constitution and a towering personality, he is known for his fight against untouchability and inequality.



Lal Bahadur Shastri
The second Prime Minister of India who gave us "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" slogan. Participated in Dandi March and Non-cooperation Movement.

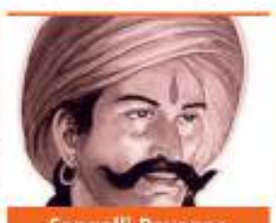


Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad
He played a crucial role in India's independence movement as an influential Muslim leader. He came to the forefront during the Khilafat movement.

...likewise millions of Indians have fought for India's freedom.

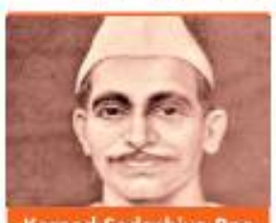
In Karnataka

Kittru Rani Chennamma
The first Indian woman to rebel against the British. She defeated the British in 1824.

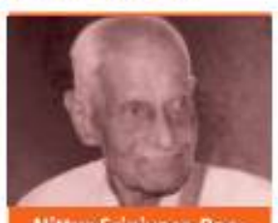


Sangolli Rayanna
His name is synonymous with bravery. He was the army chief of the kingdom of Kittur. He waged a guerilla war against the British.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya -Mangalore
Played a vital role in India's independence movement and political transformation

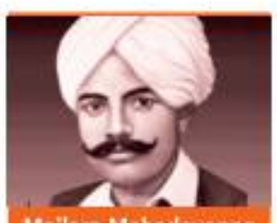


Karnad Sadashiva Rao -Mangalore
He joined the freedom movement in 1919. He was the first person from Karnataka to join Gandhi's Satyagraha movement.



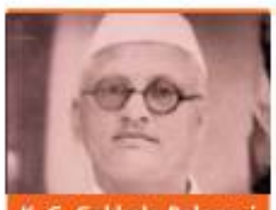
Nittur Srinivasa Rao-Tumakuru
A true Gandhian, he actively participated in India's freedom movement.

Subedar Guddemane Appaiah Gowda-Coorg
A symbol of patriotism, he was hanged by the British in front of Madikeri Fort in 1837.

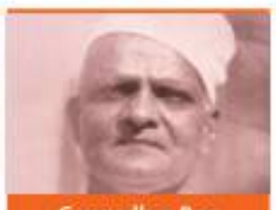


Mailara Mahadevappa -Motebennur
The only person from Karnataka who participated in the Dandi March with Gandhiji.

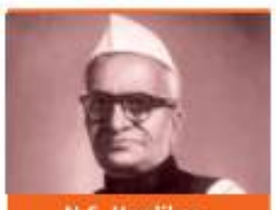
Umabai Kundapara - Hubbali
She organized a large number of volunteers to participate in the freedom movement.



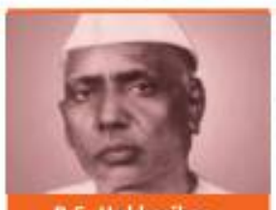
K. G. Gokhale-Belagavi
His provocative writings inspired the people to participate in the freedom struggle.



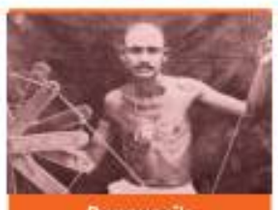
Gangadhar Rao Deshpande-Belagavi
He was pivotal in ensuring that the 1924 Congress Session was held in Belagavi.



N.S. Hardikar - Dharwad
He lectured and sold books to promote indigenous sentiment among the masses.



R.S. Hukkerikar - Dharwad
Started Dharmaveer Newspaper to ignite the spirit of freedom among people.



Banavasi's Hardekar Manjappa
Known as Karnataka's Gandhi, he actively participated in Swadeshi Movement.

Chandrashekaraiah-Harihara Province
He was known as Sidilamari (Thunderbolt) and Subhash Chandra Bose of the Harihara region.

Maleyuru Chikkalingappa (Chamarajanagara)
Well known freedom fighter. Known for selfless service.

In addition, scores of leaders from Karnataka, including Poojya **Doddappa**, the 7th Pontiff of Kalaburuagi Sharanabasaveshwara Samsthana, **Khadi Shankarappa** (Shivamogga), **H. S. Doreswamy** (born in Harohalli, Kanakapura), **Yahsodhara Dasappa** (Bengaluru) have made an invaluable contribution to the freedom struggle.

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

State reports 1,329 new cases, 5 deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday recorded 1,329 new infections taking the total number of cases to 40,29,446. With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 4.26% and the weekly TPR touched 6.07%. Of the new cases, 791 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone. With five deaths, the State's toll touched 40,144. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded. As many as 1,614 persons were discharged on Saturday. Active cases stood at 10,105 on Saturday.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

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in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior Science and Mathematics

All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding **National Standard Examinations (NSEs)** (for science subjects) on **November 26 and 27, 2022** and in **Indian Olympiad Qualifier in Mathematics (IOQM)** (for Mathematics) on **October 30, 2022.**

Qualification in **NSE/IOQM** is the first step towards participation in the corresponding **International Olympiads of 2023.**

To enroll:
NSEs: https://www.iapt.org.in **(Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2022)**
IOQM: https://www.mtai.org.in **(Aug 8 - Sep 8, 2022)**
For more details: https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in
https://www.iapt.org.in https://www.mtai.org.in

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John : +91 8073835074

Banaswadi
CMG Heights, No.7, Ground Floor, Outer Ring Road - Service lane, Near Hormavu, Bengaluru - 560043.
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Social Welfare Department &
Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department

Welfare Schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Application for the year 2022-2023 invited for the following schemes

Self-employment Schemes

To earn income by engaging eligible youths in various economic activities:
1) Direct Loan: For small income generating economic activities. The unit cost is Rs. 1.00 Lakh in this 50% Loan & 50% Subsidy.
2) Entrepreneurship (ISB) scheme:
i) Purchase of E V and other two-wheelers (for delivery of goods to the customers under e-commerce) Max. subsidy of Rs. 50,000/-, remaining amount Bank loan.
ii) Entrepreneurship (ISB) activities: Max. subsidy Rs. 2.00 Lakhs, remaining amount Bank loan.
iii) For purchase of Goods carrying vehicle: Max. subsidy Rs. 3.50 Lakhs, remaining amount Bank loan.

Micro Credit Scheme
To promote group economic activities the financial assistance will be sanctioned to women SHG's. A maximum of Rs. 2.50 Lakhs will be sanctioned. Out of which Rs. 1.50 Lakhs is subsidy & Rs. 1.00 Lakh is loan.

Land Purchase Scheme
Purchasing the agriculture land in the name of the landless women agriculture labourers. A minimum of 2.00 acres of dry land, 1 acres of wet land, 0.20 acres of garden land or maximum land available in the unit cost.

Ganga Kalyana Scheme
Providing irrigation facilities by drilling of borewells in the dry lands of small and marginal farmers.

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri Basavaj S Bommai** & **Sri Kota Srinivasa Poojary**, Minister for Social Welfare & Backward Class Welfare participated in the inaugural programme of "Kalyanamithra Integrated SC / ST Helpline".

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri Basavaj S Bommai** & **Sri B. Sriramulu**, Hon'ble Minister for Transportation & Scheduled Tribes Welfare in a Departmental Programme

The communities coming under respective Corporations can submit the applications online through the following portal: https://suvidha.karnataka.gov.in

For more details contact the District Offices and Websites of respective Corporations or **Kalyanamithra** SC/ST Integrated 24/7 Helpline **9482300400**

Spl. Note: (i) Applications under Boards and Govt. discretionary quota should also be submitted through Suvidha online portal only. (ii) Application should be submitted with in scheduled date. Applications received after the last date will not be accepted.

Last date for submission of Applications: 20-08-2022

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation
http://adcl.karnataka.gov.in
The sub castes among SCs who comes under the purview of this Corporation & Nomadic Cell can submit the applications.

Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.
https://kmvstdcl.karnataka.gov.in
The Castes coming under the purview of this Corporation & Nomadic Cell / Forest Based Tribes can submit the applications.

Karnataka Adijambava Development Corporation
https://adijambava.karnataka.gov.in

Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation
https://banjarathanda.kar.nic.in

Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation
https://kbdc.karnataka.gov.in

Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation
https://ksskdc.kar.nic.in
Identified Manual Scavengers / Safai Karmacharis and their dependents can submit the applications.

Managing Directors
All Corporations

Commissioner
Department of Social Welfare

Secretary to Government
Department of Social Welfare

To Protect and respect our varied culture and traditions" is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of the Country.

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH.

NAIDU BSNL SDE(Rtd) seek alliance for only Daughter Employed B.Tech 26/150cm Preferably suitable Chennai based boy sub-sect no bar 9444907878/9444388282/22394344

DEC 84, 4ft 11 inch, Hindu Nadar, BTech, Issueless, Innocent Divorce. Looking for a suitable Hindu Nadar groom. 8870863350.

COSMOPOLITAN

A 30–YEAR–OLD lawyer, policy–researcher, writer, from a Tamil–speaking, Delhi–based family. Father university professor. Seeking a well–settled, educated, urban groom. nbuvana2022@gmail.com

PQM FOR (Bangalore) based Hindu girl, 1981 / 153 cm, Working in MNC, BE, Father Scientist, seeks liberal minded, suitable match in early 40's. E: starmi85@mail.com with photo.

DIVORCEE

TAMIL YADAVA Divorcee 47yrs 165cm seeks well employed suitable alliance from same community Ct:6382521687

DOCTOR

LOOKING FOR a doctor bridegroom for a doctor girl who has completed M.S. (Ortho) 26 years, 160 cm, doctor family settled in Salem.We seek liberal minded, suitable Hindu match .Ph:9677706235

Hindu Sozhia vellalar Makam/ Simmam fair 25/155 MBBS passed PLAB2 working in UK seeks Doctor groom in UK or willing to go to UK (also Engg groom).Ct:9443142646,9442222401 or sripriya233@gmail.com

AGAMUDAYAR, THEVAR, 31/ 5.1", Fair, Doctor(MD), DNB Radiology, working in well reputed Pvt. Medical college Hospital at Chennai seeks suitable, good looking/ chivalrous Doctor groom with age less than 34 years. CNB.Ct: 88257 52705/ 76390 72948

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 33/ 165 from affluent Elite family of doctors.Working as Cardiac Anesthesiologist in top hospital, Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered & cultured. Father doctor Kerala Nair, Mother CSI Tamil Christian. Doctor & Engineer grooms with MD/ MS/ MCh/ DM/ BE/ B.Tech from good family background from Kerala & Tamilnadu preferable. Ct: 9840560381/ 9840985383

VANIYA CHETTIYAR Aswini Mesam 28/ 163 MBBS,MD final year,Pulmonology, seeks Doctor/IPS/IAS. Sub cast no bar; srharicars@gmail.com 9840125521

MALAYALAM

ALLIANCE INVITED for adopted Thiyya girl from reputed Calicut based family 24/162 Thrikatta, MBA doing internship at Bangalore 9895240614

Kochi based Ezhava Girl 06/04/1988, 5'2", Ph.D., USA seeking Alliance from similar who settled in USA. Contact: 9446032059.

TAMIL

Muslim Rowther born1995 MBA 160 working Govt. Bank seeks suitable groom. Ct : 88701 73563.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private). Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

TAMIL MUSLIM Rowther 22/ M.Sc / Fair, Well Settled Family in Chennai Native: Kumbakonam Raq suitable groom. Mail: shameermuhammed893@gmail.com

SEEKING 40–45 aged educated Muslim groom with permanent income & willing to settle with Muslim, Govt. servant bride aged 40.Ct: 9788534884

US BASED Muslim bride 23 seeks Tamil speaking US settled Muslim professional between 26–30 Ct: 9444033781

TAMIL MUSLIM, 23, Fair, B.Tech seeks suitable Educated Employed Groom from Decent family. Contact: 94434 09444, 94866 67999

MUSLIM GIRL, 27/162 CM, Very Fair,BE (ECE), Affluent Family in Chennai.5 times Prayer. Ct:9944227295

ILLATHU PILLAI, 29/127, Ayilyam, Well Settled Doctor(PG) Servicing in TN Govt seeks suitable Groom. Caste No Bar. 94866 08644, 94961 02205

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M.S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent, seeks settled groom CNB. 9489935653

✔ **MUDALIAR: 25/**160, V.Fair & Beautiful, B.E,M.S(USA), Software Eng, Amazon, USA,600000 PM, Elite Family, Seeks Groom – Abroad /Doctor / Business – 7305810258

ADIDRAVIDAR 34, Rohini, B. Tech, PSU–Employee, Chennai, 50,000pm, Widow, lost her husband in Covid, having boy 7 yrs old. Seeks suitable Similar Alliance, Caste No Bar. 9443307660 Mail: gana1972madras@gmail.com

TAMIL

HINDU MARAVAR Star Uthiradam, Rasi Magaram,D.O.B: 12/02/1991, Job–HR, 165cm Ht, 64kg Wt. Expectation: Working in Chennai, [Equal Professional, same or sub caste ok] 7845259152

TAMILIAN 168 cm, 30yrs working in corporate Seeks Suitable South Indian bridegroom. Contact:9444186160

CHENNAI MUDALIAR MBA 24, 172cm 3Lac seek 32–37 Affluent Tall 17–20L Indpt. Boy 8754144896/ W–9629196530

LOOKING BOY for only daughter of reputed business family 88 born Mudaliar Non Vegetarian 162cm, fair, slim preety looking affectionate Int. law analyst expectations well educated equal community contact: whatsapp 9443248287

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, Caste No Bar, 35yrs, Ph.D, Asst. Prof. in Govt College, Puducherry, seeks compatible Groom age 33-37. Ct: 9600333303

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 200cr, 30/ 160, Good looking, B.Arch, Famous Construction Business in Chennai, Affluent Family – Seeks groom – Business / Eng / India / Abroad – 8939012419

SENGUNTHAR MUDALIYAR : Doctor Girl, Age 30, Studying MS – OG. Seeks Suitable Groom in same profession and community. Cell : 98940 81894.

Alliance for Nair Lady (44), Govt Employee, (Divorcee) from well Employed Nair Grooms. Contact: 8086325204

RC /SC /AD/5ft 3inch/ 1992/ PG/ Team Lead in IT/ 10L–PA/Chennai. Expec: RC/IT/suitable match/ Caste No Bar–Call:9884829940

DKV 30/164 fair B.Tech (NIT) MBA (IT), MNC Chennai seeks bridegroom from educated family. 9940507235

TAMIL YADAVA CNB–A Business Family From Ooty seeks Bride Groom for their daughter 24 years very fair Bachelor in Fashion Designing Sadayam–Kumbam. Business/Professional Family From Yadava/Pillai/Mudaliar. CT: 9443115000.

A Very well established Kongu Vellalar Goundar family in Tirupur seeking a groom in the same community for their only Daughter aged 28 yrs Working at a Top Tier Investment Bank based in the UK. We are looking for a groom based in US/UK aged below 32. Contact Mob: 98430-21111, 94430-40909. Mail id: amvenkat1966@gmail.com

36Yrs Working Bride seeking 36-39 Yrs likeminded Groom. Can Relocate. Contact: 9940060426.

TAMIL MUSLIM, 31/165cm, Wheatish B.E MBA S/W.Engineer,chennai seeks Suitable Educated Groom 9940363543

Groom Wanted

Pillai NV Hindu 45 MCA 45+ 5'5"
(29-10-1976) Officer
(Public Sector Bank)
Star - Uthiradam Physically Handicapped (left leg polio attack) caste no bar seeks educated well employed bridegroom

Contact :- 94868 28754
73393 75133

TAMIL

HINDU, TAMIL 37Y Govt Doctor MD Gynecology CNB prefer Doctor/ Engineer/ Businessman Ct. 9514518555.

HINDU NADAR Fair Bride 164cm 27year BE/MS Seeks Engineer Groom Working in Chennai /Bangalore. 9381044905

DOCTORS Parents- Hindu Pillai 25yrs B.E, MS(Data Science) - Australia,Elite seeks grooms from Elite Affluent family from India/Abroad.CNB. 98946-97977.

THULUVA Vellala, Poonadam -1987, BA.,BL.(Hon) M.L., employed at MNC Chennai seeks Employed Educated, Good Looking Groom. Ct: 9381048682

HINDU NADAR 24/165cm BVA Textile Designer in Chennai. Seeks groom Govt. job/Business / Upper Middle Class Ph: 8754466074 / 8754466073

TELUGU

NAIDU BORN August 1990 165cm Ph.D Research scholar smart medium complexion seeks well educated & well settled groom in India from decent background born not earlier than 1987 (Below 35yrs) call:9790908109

NAIDU 27/165 Fair,Beautiful, MBBS, MD–Doing Final Year,Educated Affluent Family,CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

KRITHIGAI, 30/159CM – M.Com, B.Ed Veg Bride, Seeks Educated, Employed groom, Caste Nobar. Ct: 8056012713

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

A big business family from Chennai Wants Bride Groom for their Daughter, Age:28, Naidu, Dhanusu, Moolam, 2nd Patham, Working in Germany BE,MS (Germany) with good background. Groom should be below 30yrs Businessman or working Professional Ok. based at Chennai or anywhere at SouthIndia Ok.

Ct : 0-98410 71701

KAMMA NAIDU

Chennai based
Affluent family
Star - Swathi
1990 born 172cm
ME, MBA
family business
seeks well educated
business family groom
from same caste.

Ct: 73055-55788

URDU

SMU GIRL Chennai, Hijabi, Fair 29/ 155, M.Phil, Counselor Special Needs School, seeks suitable, professionally qualified, settled groom. WhatsApp 9884587114, 9962625140, hameed.shaadi2020@gmail.com

SHOULD BE an IT Professional working in USA or Trichy Tamil Nadu, Religious Sunni Muslim, Urdu–speaking, Age 27–37, For: MCA MPhil Trichy Bride, Assistant Professor, Pious, 1987 born, 165 cm . Write to: farhath_abbas@yahoo.com

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

AFFLUENT CULTURED catholic family of high repute seeks alliance for their accomplished son 35 years post graduate IIM in good post unmarried ht 173 cm well settled an educated bride below 31 years from well established family willing to settle in Bengaluru. 9739048634, email: josephajayk@gmail.com

GRADUATED FROM Wisconsin (US) and currently working in Bangalore for a fortune 50 company. 1996 born, 6ft 4inch, well built, Vadakalai, Srivatsa gothram, Pooram nakshatram. Upper middle–class family with moderate values. Father is from Tamil Ndu and Mother is from Telangana. Both parents are working at a senior position in private firms in Gurgaon. Tirupridhi@gmail.com. +91 7305229551

MALAYALAM

COIMBATORE NAIR family groom 36/ 183 chadhayam no dhosam clean habits BOSCH seeks suitable malayalam bride CNB. +2 to any degree homely bride also accepted. CT 96779 16391 & WUP: 99524 86996.

MARATHI

CANADA PR 29Yrs/ 175cm Thanjavur Marathi speaking Madhwa Dasastha Handsome,Vashishta Gothra Poosam Nakshatra Veg BS Comp Sc (U Waterloo) MBA (Queens U) Ct: 9910959809

NRI

BROTHERS, BOYS engineers affluent, MTech,MS, Sweden, 182., Uthiradam, Mprof, UK,175, Avittam, Hindu Mudaliyar, Pillai also caste no bar.ct. 9884545515

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN DIVORCE BOY 45/164cm Fair PG Working in UK Govt Job Native Chennai Holding UK Citizenship.Ct:7358781499 UK 0044 7772544028

Padmasaliyar, 34 / 167cm Marine Engineer Seeks suitable bride. Preferably BC community, Caste No Bar. Ph : 74020 90971

DKV 33/176, BE, L &T–Chennai. Parents Hindu/RC. Well settled. Seeks Suitable Bride.Caste No Bar. 9884467912

SC / Hindu/ 29/189 Cm, Software professional in Australia. Awaits PR. Seeks alliance, willing to relocate to Australia. Caste no bar. Parents in Chennai. Contact: 9884229468

PSU BANK Manager (Reddiar), Handsome, 34/5.10, Income 1.5 Lacs PM, Seeks Fair and equally placed girl, Caste no bar. Ct: 98404 50655.

TAMIL

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 28/167 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 8248195168, 8667380725

5.9,28YRS,B.TECH,MS(NEW ZEALAND) FAIR handsome now working in MNC chennai seeks suitable bride,CNB ct–7010082445,7010224142.

HINDU SOURASHTRA, Madurai 35yrs/ 6 ft, M.E (IT), SWE, Bangalaru, 15 L PA seeks suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. 99436 42672

VEERASAIVAM – LINGAYATH Avittam 42yrs 1st Marriage. Govt. Job. 4.5 LPA. Seeks Veg Girl only. 9655688291, 6381104060.

TAMIL HINDU, 38yrs, Divorcee, Self Employed Professional (Semi Qualified CA) owns self Residential House, living with Parents seeks suitable Bride. Ct: madurisaradha@gmail.com, 97893 05281.

HINDU NADAR, 33, SWE, 48L P.A, Bangalore employed, onsite Dubai, Madurai settled educated family seeks Bride. Ct: 94436 60963, 94429 84922

✔ **HINDU MALE Divorcee MCA 40 Software Architect MNC, Seeks bride below 39 years. Caste no bar 6383577697 9445953399**

CSI NADAR ME Mech Engineer, 28/ 173, working in Canada & have PR, WhatsApp# 9790841966

TAMIL IYER BE,MBA Athreya gothram, 36 years 5ft 7" Bangalore MNC 17 LPA seeks graduate girl from good family.Contact: 8277346685 vsnnivasan425@gmail.com

HINDU BOY 31/BE/Software Engr/Avilam–Katagam / Sc– Caste No Bar/Bangalore settled. Seeks Bride from educated and well settled family. Contact No 9845401461.

SC AD 29/B.E (EEE) Govt. Job,Indian Bank–Sr. Manager|89,000p.m. Seeks Bride. Job not Compulsory.7397674481

DOCTOR RADIOLOGIST, Hindu Pillai BC, 31, tall fair affluent family seeks Doctor bride BC/MBC. 9865167703

NAIDU 34, Handsome, B.Tech, Business, Divorcee, Seeks Beautiful Bride Below 30 yrs. Unmarried / Widow. Without Issues. CNB Ct: 9841010419

MBA, 43 yrs/167, Handsome, Manager MNC, Brahmin, lives in Chennai. Seeks Tamil/Kannada bride from a decent, educated family. Contact: 73387 39784

CASTE NO Bar For BC & MBC Muthuraiyar 33 BE MNC Chennai 12L PA Non Consummated Divorce Contact 8610621866/9042311369

✔ **MATCH FOR** Tamil boy, Hindu–Udayar, 29Y, 5'10", Gd Looking, M.Tech, Dep. Mgr@Cent. govt.PSU in Hyderabad. Want Gd looking girl, educated& working(wish to). Caste:BC/OC. Ct:7639512625/ 6382579487

SENGUNTHAR KETTAI 36/165, M.Tech (Ph.D), Asst. Prof.(HOD) Pvt. Engg. College, Pondicherry, seeks bride age 28 to 35yrs. Cont:9442557578

TAMIL HINDU / Christian / AD / PR Maharn Simham handsome 33 years M.Tech working in a Multinational software company. Well to do family from Chidambaram and settled at Chennai. Type I diabetic and in control. Suitable good looking brids solicited with details. Caste no bar. email id: armanojsurya@gmail.com

TAMIL

Sozhiya Vellalar/Pillai Tamil Boy 27/ 62" B.Tech, Working at Hyderabad IT 10L PA, working preferable seeks Good family Girl. Contact: 9398526609

INTERCASTE BRAHMIN–DEVAR brilliant boy 27/162–Erode– SWE–3@ Juniper Networks Bgl.14 Lacs/pa. seeks Tamil Vegetarian girls only ct: baluakhi@gmail.com 9442819001

DKV 33/173 Hastham Manager Govt. Bank seeks suitable bride from educated family. Caste No bar. 9940507235

GAVARA NAIDU, 36, BE, MBA, Uthirattathi, Bank Manager, Seeks Bride From South Tamilnadu. 9443172955

TAMIL YADAVA CNB–A Business Family from Ooty seeks Bride for their son 29 years MBA Family Business Thiruvonam–Magaram From Business/ Professional Family From Yadava/ Pillai/Mudaliar. CT: 9443115000.

BITS PILANI 6'1 Engineer Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Wkg Top Corporate at Bangalore Salary 35-40lacs seeks Engineer/Doctor 5 4' Im Tamil/ Telugu Forward Castes - 7382620366.

NAIDU ANUSHAM No Dosham, 32/5'10, BE, MS (USA), Project Manager in Reputed Co. in Chennai.(Will be moving to Blore in October). only son, well settled,. Seeks Educated girl from upper middle family, CasteNoBar. 9841152054, 9840961569

HINDU BERI Chetty Fair 28/178 working in Australia 75000 AuD. Seeks Bride to Settle in Australia. Sub Caste ok. Ct : 9841064536

HINDU MUDALIAR Civil Engineer Working in Abu Dhabi Only Son 34yrs 167cms 36 Lakhs Per Annum Seeks Suitable Bride Caste no bar.Ct: 9003575687

HINDU SC AD 33/172/ Star Rohini Ph.D Chemistry, CSIR RA seeks suitable Bride (Age: 28–31) employed. Ct: 9994153134, 9840490934

WIDOWER DOCTOR 59, seeks life partner from widow, divorcee & spinster. E–mail: selvajothi1962@gmail.com

SMARTHA BRAHMIN Telugu Bachelor 44/ 175 Koundinya Chithirai B.Tech M.E Sr DGM Seeks Brahmin Bride Ct. lebalaji94@yahoo.com 9445006191

VADAKALAI IYENGAR Boy, Punarpoosam 5 ft 6 inch, Bharatwaja Gothram, 1979, never married, MNC Chennai, MS, I.T, 24 Lacs pa seeks never married Brides. Cont with BHP Whatsapp: 7299704899, 9443092289.

BRAHMIN,40, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, Seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ph: 9487851429

B.COM, M.SC, 38 (IT), Lnd Ind, 45k Temple charge,Homely,wiking, simple marriage Ct: 9150052711, 7358615054

IYENGAR, SRIVATSAM, Swati Age–46 Divorcee, no issue, clean habits, Sr. Executive– Bank seeks brahmin girl age 38–44, Star match necessary Ct: SMS/Wats app 9383211789

IYER, 41 Years, Self Employed Chartered Accountant in Erode. Having own house and earns 25lakhs per year. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

TAMIL IYER, 33 years, Swathi, Naithruva Kashyapa Gothram, 5 feet, 10 inches, B.E. M.S. Ph.D (Biotech), Employed as a Research Scientist in Melbourne. Requires a PG–qualified girl from India or abroad. Iyengar, Madhava, or Telugu brahmin girls are also welcome. Contact: +64 211677071. Email: rammuthu893@gmail.com

TAMIL

BRAHMIN32/179MS USA/H1B/140 Koundinya Vadama Magham Simha Seeks Brahmin bride MS USA employed 9500118943

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

BRIDES WANTED

Pillai (Caste no bar) 26/175, Handsome, MBA, LLM (Corporate & Finance Law), Business, Having Own Famous Resort, Training Academy & Overseas placement, Rice Export, Real Estate Business, Chennai, Elite Family. Only Son- Seeks Bride, Good Looking & Decent Background

89250 19776

Hindu Nadar 26/180cm B.Tech,SBI, Dy.Mngr Rs1.25/pm Mithunam /Punarpoosham seeks bride from empld / unempld graduate bride. Ct:9443419510

31 / 164 cm M.E., Assistant Professor Chennai.Divorcee seeks suitable bride unmarried/divorcee-no issue. Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar/ Naidu pref. Ct: 94456 89306 / 94430 52596

PILLAI - Tirunelveli 29,170cms B.Tech MS(France), Star Maham, lives in Coimbatore, looking family Engg Business. Father is an Industrialist. Expecting for a compatible match from the same community. CT: 9944972283 / 9944972281.

TELUGU

VISWAKARMA 29 /175 B.Tech cntl Govt job bngr 16 LPA seeks bride frm nellore. Ct:8310786857

REDDY 36YRS/1984 Born / 5.9 Inches / Working at DXC Technology Bangalore [9 Lakhs Per Annum]/ Legally Divorced (Null & Void– No Issues) / Cast No Bar (FC, BC or MBC) / Avitam 2nd Paatham, Makara Rasi 9791044451

AGE 42, MCA, MBA,Sadhayam,Kumba Rasi,Fair Software engineer Seeks Suitable Bride. Caste no bar. 7904010930

Devangar Chettiar, Chennai. MDS Graduate, 12 LPA, Divorced, Age: 37, Ashwini, seeks only Never Married Bride with any Degree. Contact: 9444120328.

NAIDU 29/172 Handsome, MBBS (MS) Father Doing Business, Affluent Elite Family,CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

KANNI UTHIRAM 35/178 BCA, LLB Reputed Co Chennai, Divorcee seeks Unmarried Bride, Caste No Bar. 8682080448

REDDY 1991, 171cm, Very Fair, Uttara Phalguni, NRI, Graduated from Top US and UK Universities, in Senior Position at Leading Multinational Company in US. Established family. Speaks English, Telugu and Tamil. Girl should have studied in US and prepared to work and settle in Boston, US. Full details with Photo and Family Background to WhatsApp: +91 9444899696

Need Telugu Brahmin Girl with any degree- for 29 Yrs Boy Mgr in MNC. Kashyabi/ Ayilam/ Katagam. Age diff 2 - 5 Yrs. Horoscope matching must Call 9840358700.

URDU

SMU, 26, 5'11" Engineer, PSU employed groom seeks educated religious homely bride from Chennai. Ct parents on mehabe2795@gmail.com

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 34, 185 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from any community. Contact: 6366448343

SOZHIYA VELLALAR, 28, 168 cms, Businessman, MTech. Lives in Madurai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match from a similar community. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 32, 169 cms, Data Scientist, MSc from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Legal Professionals. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded well educated match from any vegetarian community. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR, 27, 180 cms, Doctor, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman and Mother is a Doctor. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible doctor match from the same community in India. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR/CASTE NO BAR, 28, 183 cms, Student, pursuing MS. Lives in Pondicherry. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 23, 168 cms, pursuing Masters. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match in India/Aboard. Contact: 6366448344

SAIVA PILLA, 29, 160 cms, Market Leader, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match from any community in India/Australia. Contact: 6366448345

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 24, 154 cms, Software Engineer, BE. Lives in Neelagiri. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

DEVAR, 26, 175 cms, pursuing MBA. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Civil Service Employee. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match from the same community in India. Contact: 6366448345

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Masters from a Premier Institute. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a well reputed Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a well educated match from the same community from Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

COSMOPOLITAN

PROFESSIONAL, PHD. Talented, polite, respected gentleman. DoB:Mar'78. Educated, eminent ex–defense family. Bangalore. WA: 9845284089

DOCTOR

DOCTOR MD Radiology 35 years Hindu Tamil SC Pondicherry seeks Doctor Girl contact. 7708756395

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

Kannada Devanga Chettiar Boy, Fair, 34/5'3", MBA (IIM Bangalore), Working in MNC in Bangalore, 50 LPA. Caste: No Bar. Contact: 9677562027.

MALAYALAM

SUDDHA Jadagam handsome Nair 30/167 Coimbatore settled, Pvt Job in Chennai, Seeks Employed Malayalam/ Tamil Bride. CT: 9488717653.

TAMIL

TIRUNELVELI BASED Parents seek alliance for their Son Tamil, Muslim, 30/178cms, ME, Expecting supportive and preferably Employed/ professional/progressive Bride. Ct: 9443969998

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 25yrs seeks bride from community, any professional. 9382266099

RC CHRISTIAN, 1973/165cm, M.A., M.B.A., Govt. 90K/PM Divorce Seeks Suitable Bride, CNB. Ph: 8148842983

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** 30, BE, Veg. Job: MNC (Software) in Chennai, Annual Income: 12 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same community or any other community. Phone: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR, Baskar,C (36) 175cm MBA, 1.5L P/Month including Business and Rent. Suitable Bride from Chennai. Ct: 9382603744

MUDALIAR 29, BE/MS, 23Lacs PA, 178cm, Smartlook,well Settled Family Seeks Bride, CNB.8778614465/ 7200866346

PILLAI (SUB Caste Ok) 32, Bharani star, DCE, Work in Qatar. Salary 18L P.A.Ct: 9442456941 / 7305460763.

AGAMUDAIYA MUDALIYAR, divorce, 40, Mirugasiridam, 170cm, Slim, Ph.D, Govt Job, 1.10 lakh p/m, 9894042460

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA PG Doctor Chennai 29/159Rohini-2 Rishabam seeks same caste Doctor Bride/Sand Profile–Horoscope: vpsarathy1@gmail.com9886041169

GAVARA NAIDU well Edu tmly seeks SMK fair and hsome Engr son 27/ 5'10", wrking SI(Tech) cybercrime stn Trichy. , contact with BHP; Cont: 9443768130

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I, **(R** Aruna) D/O (K Ramakrishnan) born on (16–01–1986) residing at (SN – 108 Provident Sunworth Apartment Venkatapura Kengeri Bangalore 560060), have changed my name to (Sruthi Bino) vide affidavit dated (11–08–2022) at (Bangalore)

THE HINDU

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CM launches Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

Government has distributed 1.25 crore flags for free across the State, says Basavaraj Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Students taking part in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in Bengaluru on Saturday. • PTI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday launched the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in Karnataka, on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, and said the government had distributed 1.25 crore flags for free cost across the State.

"The tricolour is a symbol of national pride for the entire country. The programme envisages inspiring Indians everywhere to hoist the national flag at their home," Mr. Bommai said.

Speaking at the function organised by the Kannada and Culture Department, the Chief Minister called upon the youth to come forward to build a strong and glorious India. "'Country first, we come later,' should be the motto," he said, urging all to eschew narrow and selfish interests to serve the country.

The Chief Minister recalled the contributions of freedom fighters such as Kittur Rani Chennamma, Sangolli Rayanna, Mailara Mahadevappa, Sahukar Chennaiah, and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pledged to make India the strongest nation in the world.

'Work for unity'

Mr. Bommai mentioned that people were prepared to suffer and even die for the country during the freedom struggle. It was now the duty of all citizens to work unitedly for the country's unity, he said and vowed to work for contributing $1 trillion from Karnataka in Mr. Modi's goal of building a $5 trillion economy.

Earlier, Mr. Bommai hoisted the national flag at his residence and took to social media and wrote: "Partaking in Hon'ble PM @narendramodi Ji's #HarGharTiranga campaign, hoisting the national flag at my residence in the presence of family members. Let us all join hands & make Har Ghar Tiranga a huge success by hoisting tiranga in our respective homes."

The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign saw a good response in different parts of the State as all government offices, schools, colleges, and private establishments hoisted the tricolour on Saturday. Besides a large number of families too celebrated the occasion by hoisting the national flag on their premises. Tiranga yatras were also taken out on the occasion.

In Mysuru, the DAR, CAR, KSRP, and mounted police took out a procession to mark the occasion and rededicate themselves to uphold freedom and protect the rights of people. The Railways joined the campaign and 6,500 national flags were distributed to its employees as part of the campaign.

Plaint against protesters

As part of the celebrations, portraits of freedom fighters were displayed at the City Centre, a marketplace of Shivamogga city. A few people, who visited the place, objected to V.D. Savarkar's portrait being displayed along with that of other freedom fighters. They wanted Savarkar's photo to be removed as he had written mercy petitions to the British.

Later, a few BJP supporters gathered in front of the marketplace and staged a protest against the people who opposed Savarkar's portrait. They wanted immediate arrest of those who wanted the removal of his photo. They also filed a complaint with the police in this regard.

Nirmala: Exercise caution while dealing in cryptocurrency

'Centre keen to encourage blockchain distributed ledger technology'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with residents, participating in Har Ghar Tiranga rally in Bengaluru on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Caution is the word as all that is floating around is not currency, cautioned Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman referring to cryptocurrency. She was speaking here on Saturday at an event organised by the BJP Economic Cell to release its souvenir 'Vishwaguru Bharat'.

She urged the public and start-up entrepreneurs to deal in cryptocurrency with caution as all that was floating around was not currency. "The government has already warned. I think all of us will have to share our thoughts and move with a bit of caution on this," she warned.

An episode that was reported in the media in the last few weeks, into which the investigation was happening, revealed several pitfalls, she added, apparently referring to the money laundering cases the ED has been probing recently.

However, she clarified that technology offered immense possibilities and people in the crypto ecosystem should not think that the government was inward looking and against technology.

With regard to blockchain, Ms. Sitharaman said, the Union government was very keen to encourage blockchain distributed ledger technology in the country.

Responding to a query from the audience on how to reconcile growth and inflation, especially if the country slipped into stagflation, she said, "We have to manage inflation, and also encourage growth. The approach that we are taking is growth. Growth is absolutely core to be given its full share of attention." She, however, conceded that there were increased costs on manufacturers. It was not to say that there was no burden of increased costs on manufacturers or increased prices on consumers.

"I repeat that India, legislatively and also because of the way in which we handled our inflationary things, has given itself number four – you know, for 4% inflation is acceptable and a tolerance band of minus two plus two, and don't allow it to go further below than 2%," she elaborated.

Ideally, the inflation should never be allowed to go above 6% but in the last few, particularly in the last few months, it went to over%, Ms. Sitharaman added.

Priyank's remarks angers BJP; demands an apology

Ready to apologise if anyone is hurt, says Congress MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Priyank Kharge

The allegation of Priyank Kharge, Congress MLA, that women have to sleep with someone to get jobs in the BJP government has triggered an angry response from the ruling party. BJP leaders, including Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi and the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, described this as an insult to women and demanded that he tender an apology to women of the State.

Speaking to presspersons after hoisting the national flag at his home in Hubballi on Saturday, Mr. Joshi said Mr. Kharge's remarks showed his low-level thinking. "No one should speak against women in this manner and no woman will tolerate it. Mr. Kharge has disgraced the women folk by his low-level remarks and should apologise to them," he said.

Mr. Joshi said the former Minister's statement also showed the pathetic State of the Congress. At least Mr. Kharge should have learnt something from his father, Mr. Joshi said, challenging him to win the next election.

Defends remark

Meanwhile, Mr. Kharge took to Twitter on Saturday to defend his statement. Mentioning that truth was always bitter, he sought to know why a Union Minister and then a State Minister were asked to resign if there were no such instances of debauchery and corruption. He also sought to know why a series of Ministers, MLAs, and MPs brought injunction order from court.

Ready to apologise

Later in the day, Mr. Kharge took to Facebook to say that he was ready to apologise if anyone was hurt by his statement and he never intended to demean women in any way through his statement.

Mentioning various instances pertaining to BJP leaders, including Ministers and MLAs who were caught in disgraceful acts that demeaned women, Mr. Kharge said no BJP leader had demanded an apology them. And now as his press conference regarding the KPTCL recruitment scam had irked the BJP leadership, it was now trying to twist the narrative to suit its needs and cover up the whole issue, Mr. Kharge said in his Facebook post.

Awash with colours

All set: Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru is illuminated with the colours of the national flag ahead of the Independence Day, on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

'India's standing, culture now have a global recognition'

Jaishankar attributes it to strong leadership in the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

S. Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said the standing of India had global recognition now unlike in the earlier decades and attributed this to the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"When I first went abroad about 40 years ago, this was not how India and its leaders were regarded. But now the standing, culture and heritage of India have a global recognition," the Minister said while addressing students of Jain University, near here.

He gave the example of yoga being celebrated globally and ayurveda being spread across while understanding of Indian culture and related things increasing at the global level.

"This world is very connected. Because of being connected, it gives you more opportunities and benefits. But it also gives you more problems. You need a very clear and strong leadership... which today has the thinking, clarity, and confidence to deal with such problems," he said.

He said one of the aims of the foreign policy was to ensure that Indian people are looked after wherever they were. The country had demonstrated it by bringing back 70 lakh people from across the world during COVID-19 while about 20,000 Indian students struck in Ukraine too had been brought back. "It requires a strong leader who can do whatever it takes to look after its people," Mr. Jaishankar said.

Karnataka Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan was also present.

HDD stresses need for harmonious living

He responds to PM's call to hoist the national tricolour

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda with the national flag at his house in Bengaluru. • TWITTER/@H_D_DEVEGOWDA

The former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Saturday stressed the need for fulfilling the ideal of harmonious living, ahead of the 75th anniversary of the country's Independence.

Mr. Gowda responded to the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hoist the national tricolour and posted a video of him holding the national flag on social media.

"I have always felt proud to hold the national flag and swear my unwavering loyalty to it. It is a great symbol of our freedom. On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, I pray to God that all of us Indians fulfil the great ideal of living harmoniously under the Tiranga," the veteran leader said, in his tweet.

Bommai calls for strengthening Karnataka-Maharashtra ties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday stressed the need for strengthening the ties between Karnataka and Maharashtra which share a historic bonding. Addressing the fourth anniversary of Kannada Bhavana at a programme organised by the Bunts' Association in Pune, the Chief Minister observed that it was possible to achieve anything if the minds of both the States become united.

He observed that Kannadigas in Maharashtra had made proud achievements. "This is a State that revers Shivaji Maharaj. Also, this State respects Kannadigas," he said.

Woman murdered on court premises

Her husband, who had filed a divorce petition, arrested in Holenarsipur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

A man allegedly murdered his wife by slitting her throat on the court premises in Holenarsipur town on Saturday, leaving the court officials and the public stunned.

Chaitra, 24, who had been working in a garment firm in Bengaluru for the past two years, was murdered allegedly by her husband, Shivakumar, a truck driver.

The couple was at the court to take part in the Lok Adalat in response to a divorce petition filed by Shivakumar. The judge and advocates persuaded both of them for about an hour and asked them to stay together, keeping aside their differences, for the sake of their children. As the couple did not arrive at a consensus, the matter was adjourned.

Chaitra went to the washroom along with her two-year-old daughter after coming out of the court hall. Shivakumar followed her and allegedly slit her throat with a knife. As an advocate, who noticed the incident, screamed in shock, Shivakumar tried to flee.

The crowd and the policemen on duty at the court succeeded to capture him. Chaitra was taken to the government hospital in Holenarsipur and from there she was shifted to the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences. However, doctors in HIMS declared her brought dead.

Two daughters

Chaitra, a native of Avverahalli in Channarayapatna taluk, married Shivakumar of Tattekere in Holenarsipur six years ago. They have two daughters. Shivakumar had often harassed Chaitra, following which she had filed a police complaint. "She was assaulted many times in the past. The police did not act. Later, he moved the court with a divorce petition," said Radha, Chaitra's relative.

Shivakumar had moved the court in 2019 with a petition wanting that Chaitra should stay with him. As she refused to stay with him, he filed a divorce petition. Shivanna, the advocate who represented Shivakumar, said the matter had been going on for two-three years. "The judge in the Lok Adalat persuaded both of them and appealed to them to stay together and lead a happy family for the sake of the children. The matter was adjourned. However, the incident happened when both of them came out of the court hall. It is highly condemnable. He deserves serious punishment," he said.

Following the incident, many advocates expressed their concern over the safety of litigants and advocates on the court premises. It is not clear if the accused carried the weapon inside the court hall.

Hassan Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar told the media that the police had arrested the accused and that a probe would reveal the motive. "Our staff at the court succeeded to capture him with the help of local people. They also sent the injured to the hospital immediately," he said.

The officer said the police had recovered the weapon. "We will investigate the incident after booking a murder case. We will probe how he carried the weapon inside the court hall," the officer said.

MoU signed

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) on Thursday entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Prashanth Prakash, founding partner of Accel and chairman of Karnataka's Start-up Vision Group, to set up a geriatrics wing as part of IISc's upcoming Bagchi-Parthasarathy hospital.

According to a release from IISc, the Shantha and Prakash Geriatrics Wing is expected to be in operation by the start of 2025. It will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities in geriatrics to support academic and research programmes, and to enable postgraduate students to undergo world-class training. It will take forward the IISc Medical School's objective of integrating science, engineering, and medicine under a single umbrella to produce a new generation of physician-scientists.

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Any person or persons asserting any rights, titles or claim in the schedule property in any manner or the documents thereof or objecting to such sale in favour of my client should write to the undersigned within **7 days (Seven days)** from the date of issuance of the Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the schedule property. The claims and objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and thereafter my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claimants/objections to the schedule property.

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Archana Bhageerathi | Advocate
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

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W/o. Late T S KASTURI

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DAUGHTER IN LAW AND SON IN LAW & FOUR GRAND CHILDREN
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DEATH

OBITUARY

Smt. S. SENGAMALAM, Retd. ITO
W/o. Shri R Narayanan attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on Saturday (13th August) at her residence No.8/3, Third Street, Race View Colony, Guindy, Chennai-32. leaving behind Son, Daughter & grandsons
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MRG-BCE

WCC roots for internal panels in film shoots

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) has sought the Kerala government's and the Kerala Women's Commission's intervention to ensure that internal committees are functioning in all Malayalam film production sets, in light of the sexual abuse allegations against filmmaker Liju Krishna, director of the upcoming Nivin Pauly-starrer *Padavettu*, and the film's executive producer Bibin Paul.

The WCC said the latest revelations pointed to the fact that fake auditions were being used to entrap young women.

Pregnant women to get 'KCR Nutrition Kits'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The State government will launch 'KCR Nutrition Kits' for pregnant women on the lines of 'KCR kits' for lactating mothers as gift to coincide with Batukamma festival next month in nine select districts.

The districts are: Adilabad, Kothagudem, Bhupalpally, Gadwal, Kamareddy, Asifabad, Mulugu, Nagarkurnool, and Vikarabad.

Correction

In the report 'Jaleel's Facebook post on Kashmir triggers row', former Kerala Minister K.T. Jaleel has been wrongly mentioned as a CPI(M) leader in some editions. He is an Independent MLA backed by the CPI(M). The error is regretted.

Move to revise curriculum draws flak

Steps taken by the Kerala govt. riles Muslim outfits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

The Kerala government's move to revise the curriculum framework for school education has riled Muslim organisations, including a pro-Left Sunni organisation and the Indian National League, a Left Democratic Front (LDF) ally, as they perceive a forcible attempt to impose 'liberal ideas,' including those on gender neutrality, on children.

A vision document for the framework, being revised after around a decade, is still not within the public domain and officials involved in the process are amused at the hostile reactions. Discussions among various subject experts are going on and a final version is yet to be out.

According to sources, a section of the media carried reports based on the draft approach paper to the Kerala Curriculum Framework 2022 sometime ago. It was pointed out that there were proposals to include lessons on gender justice, social media, and the pandemic in school textbooks. The officials believe that the Muslim organisations are annoyed with the part on gender justice, which, they claim, could turn out to be against their religious convictions.

It was the Indian Union Muslim League, the second largest political party in the Opposition United Democratic Front, which convened a meeting here last week to discuss the apprehensions of the community. Representatives of both the factions of the Sunni scholars' forum, the Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama led by Syed Jiffri Muthukkoya Thangal and Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar respectively, factions of the Kerala Nadvathul Mujahideen, Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim Educational Society, and the Muslim Service Society attended the deliberations.

There is no move by the Kerala government to enforce gender-neutral uniform for schoolchildren, says Minister.

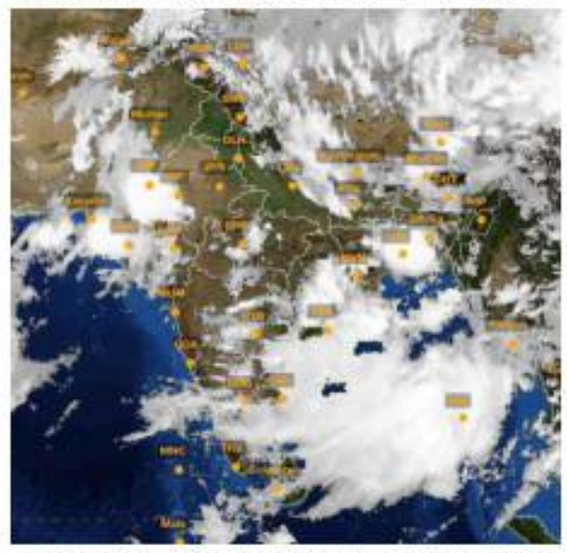
A resolution passed by the meeting said democracy demanded freedom for people who hold different ideas and values. "... Religious believers had their own lifestyle and convictions.. Cancelling them once and for all to implement liberal ideas in educational institutions was nothing but a fascist move. The argument that gender neutrality was required to put an end to gender inequality would lead to anarchy," it said. It was significant as the Kanthapuram faction is considered to be close to the ruling LDF.

The delegates pointed out that men and women have separate physical and mental make-ups. Implementing reforms without imbibing them and ignoring traditional values and morality would lead to social insecurity.

However, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has reiterated that there is no move on the part of the State government to enforce gender-neutral uniform for schoolchildren. He said the government stance on the issue was clear. It had not taken any decision that any particular uniform should be worn by students in the State, nor was it considering it. Any attempt to convey an impression to the contrary was erroneous.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Delhi, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Bihar, Vidarbha, Marathwada and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	15	33.6	25.7	Kozhikode	3	33.5	25.0
Ahmedabad	19	33.1	25.5	Kurnool	0.1	31.5	24.1
Aizawl	10	26.6	21.1	Lucknow	–	36.0	27.1
Allahabad	–	34.8	27.4	Madurai	–	36.0	24.6
Bengaluru	0.3	27.6	19.8	Mangaluru	7.2	29.4	23.5
Bhopal	2.2	30.0	29.5	Mumbai	22	30.7	25.0
Bhubaneswar	14.3	26.7	25.2	Mysuru	–	30.0	21.0
Chandigarh	–	35.8	27.6	New Delhi	–	35.4	27.4
Chennai	–	37.2	29.4	Patna	–	35.5	27.1
Coimbatore	–	32.6	22.2	Port Blair	25	30.6	23.7
Dehradun	–	34.6	24.0	Puducherry	–	37.2	26.4
Gangtok	0.8	26.1	18.5	Pune	6	28.2	21.9
Goa	8	29.2	24.1	Raipur	6.2	31.8	25.5
Guwahati	–	35.0	27.5	Ranchi	80	29.8	23.0
Hubballi	–	27.0	22.0	Shillong	11	26.3	18.7
Hyderabad	–	29.2	22.6	Shimla	–	27.0	20.1
Imphal	4	27.5	22.2	Srinagar	–	32.4	18.9
Jaipur	3	31.7	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.3	24.7
Kochi	–	30.2	25.2	Tiruchi	–	37.1	27.0
Kohima	–	26.4	17.7	Vijayawada	–	33.8	27.4
Kolkata	–	33.6	27.2	Visakhapatnam	–	30.6	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	37	21	.10	36	66	
Bengaluru	7	20	.41	33	119	
Chennai	3	22	.64	31	69	
Delhi	13	16	107	56	51	
Hyderabad	7	6	107	14	35	
Kolkata	9	17	.13	52	90	
Lucknow	8	17	.66	43	55	
Mumbai	36	25	.45	23	37	
Pune	–	42	102	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	15	42	.32	49	91	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kaithal, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 199 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Jaleel withdraws his FB post on Kashmir

But Delhi Police book him for treason

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Former Minister K.T. Jaleel has withdrawn his controversial Facebook post on Jammu and Kashmir. Almost simultaneously, news broke from New Delhi that the Tilak Marg police had booked him on suspected treason charges.

Mr. Jaleel, a Left Democratic Front (LDF) Independent legislator, courted controversy on Friday by posting a long-winded article on his recent Kashmir tour.

In the write-up, Mr. Jaleel mentioned "Indian-occupied Kashmir" and "Azadi Kashmir."

His foray into the touchy topic ignited a fiery political controversy. Mr. Jaleel removed the post stating that he meant no hurt, and some quarters had misinterpreted the composition.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State secretary K. Surendran said Mr. Jaleel's remark was detrimental to nationalism. He said Mr. Jaleel's post had advantaged Pakistan, which orchestrated insurgency and terrorism in Kashmir. Kashmir was central to India's national identity.

Mr. Surendran alleged that Mr. Jaleel had echoed the sentiments of the banned extremist outfit, Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

Telangana Minister opens fire into the air, triggers controversy

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Telangana Tourism and Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud opened fire into the air, using a police weapon, during a rally as part of the Independence Day celebrations in Mahabubnagar on Saturday.

The scene captured on camera was shared on Twitter by Mr. Goud himself. Videos of the act, in which District Superintendent of Police R. Venkateswarlu along with his staff were seen encouraging the Minister, went viral and drew wide criticism raising questions whether it was legal.

Mr. Goud responded to questions from presspersons and refuted versions that it was a self-loading rifle and it had live ammunition.

V. Srinivas Goud firing a police weapon into the air at an event held in Mahbubnagar on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It was only celebratory firing to inaugurate the rally, like I had inaugurated some events as the Sports Minister. The SP gave it to me saying it's not a real gun although it looks like one, and it had only rubber bullets."

Mr. Goud added that he was a member of the National Rifle Association of India and was well aware of the Arms rules.

'Raise retirement age of college teachers to 65'

SARATH BABU GEORGE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Commission for Reforms in Higher Education in Kerala has recommended enhancing the retirement age of university and college teachers to 65 on a par with that in Central universities. The Shyam B. Menon-chaired commission raised the proposal with a view to attracting accomplished scholars from universities outside the State. The prospect of losing five to eight years of eligible service while shifting to Kerala under the present scenario has dissuaded many candidates.

The panel has called for bringing parity in salary scales, service rules and retirement age among teachers of government, government-aided colleges, and universities. Besides enabling easy mobility of teachers from one institution to another, the move would potentially spur the formation of research and innovation groups with greater flexibility.

The superannuation ages for university and college teachers in Kerala are 60 and 56 respectively. Teachers in higher education institutions in over five States, including West Bengal, retire only when they turn 65 years.

Godavari flood begins to recede in A.P.

T. APPALA NAIDU
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

The flood in the Godavari started receding at Bhadrachalam on Saturday evening. However, the second flood warning is in force at the temple town and at Sir Arthur Cotton barrage at Dowleswaram in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

Godavari delta continues to receive huge inflows from Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP). Flood water reaches Sir Arthur Cotton barrage from the project in a day.

Alluri Sitarama Raju District Joint Collector Ganore Suraj Dhanajay said the trend of Godavari flood was 'decreasing' on Saturday evening. The second warning is likely to be withdrawn anytime when the level falls below 48 feet at Bhadrachalam. The flood level was above 50 feet at Bhadrachalam at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Mr. Dhananjay said the major routes between Chintoor and Bhadrachalam remained cut-off. Many tribal habitations had also been cut-off along the Sabari river in Chintoor Agency.

The Godavari Head Works Division stated in its flood report that by 6 p.m., the inflow was above 14.74 lakh cusecs and 9,000 cusecs was being released into the Godavari delta through the canals.

Three National Disaster Response Force teams had been deployed to take up relief operations.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SE03-2022-23

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work:

Name of Work	Appx. Cost
Repair of 5 Nos. 60kVA transformers of LHB AC coaches at CWS.	Rs. 7,24,900/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 09.09.2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Electrical Engineer
Central Workshop / Mysuru

SWRailways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has negotiated to purchase the Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule below from its Owners Mr.Ravikiran.A, son of A.Anand Naidu, No.415, "Ojas", 8th Main, Dwarakanagar, Near Crazy Park, VTR Rarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru-560098 & Mr.A.Mohan Babu, son of A.Chandra Sekhar Naidu, No.1-73, Muthukuru Village, VTC Muthukuru, Gudupalle, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, 517 419.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/their objection/s claim/s, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within FIFTEEN days of the issuance of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that Commercial building constructed on Property bearing Katha No.2389, Site No.3, (in converted land bearing Survey No.115/6, portion of Survey No.115/2, earlier Survey No.115, converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.BDS.ALN.SR(E)21/2005-06, dated 08.06.2005, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore), situated at Kundalahalli Village, ITPL Road, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, measuring East to West on the Northern side:95'5", on the Southern side:83 Feet and North to South on the Eastern side:50 Feet and on the Western side:48'4", in all measuring 4293 Square Feet, consisting of Basement, Ground and Five Upper Floors and bounded as follows:-

ON THE EAST : ITPL Road (earlier road in Survey No.115/3);
WEST : Plot bearing Nos.6 & 7;
NORTH : Plot bearing No.2;
SOUTH : Plot bearing No.3A;
Bengaluru.

(K.S.MADANA GOPAL)
Advocate,
No.1, Ground Floor, ROYAL PARK,
No.14, Park Road,
BENGALURU - 560 051.
Ph.No. 41130082, 22864065

A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

REVA University celebrated "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & Vanamahotsava Tree"

Plantation Drive - Planted 15000+ saplings in 1 year

Bangalore, August 13th, 2022

Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor REVA University felicitating the Chief Guest Shri Ramesh Aravind at the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations held in the campus.

As the nation celebrates 75 years of Independence on August 15th, REVA University proudly celebrated Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Vanamahotsava tree plantation drive. The chief guest for the event, Shri Ramesh Aravind - Actor, Director, Writer, Producer, TV Show host & Motivational speaker inaugurated the function held on the University campus. Ramesh Aravind also released the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav special magazine, "SVADHARMA," on the occasion. Inaugurating the function, Shri Ramesh Aravind praised REVA's initiatives to build a greener society. He said, "I am extremely happy about REVA Vanamahotsava as it is a wonderful initiative by the University to make the campus greener and the society a better place to live in."He also congratulated Chancellor Dr P Shyamaraju for his thoughtfulness and dedication to the various CSR initiatives at REVA University. He also said that it is important to reduce and reuse waste and make sustainable living a way of life. Speaking at the occasion, Chancellor Shri Dr P. Shyama Raju said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence as well as the illustrious history of its people, culture, and accomplishments. It was conceived and envisioned by the Government of India under the guidance of the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. REVA University proactively took part in the Mahotsav by hosting several contests and events centred on the freedom struggle. The mission of 'SVADHARMA' is to document these events and remind people that history has shown us that there is power in unity as we set the foundation for a stronger, more resilient, and more responsible nation."In addition, REVA University is pleased to recognise the accomplishment of planting 15,000 or more saplings throughout the City as part of the Vanamahotsava Tree Plantation Drive. Congratulating the faculties and students on this feat, Dr Shyama Raju said, "Ever since the initiative began a year back, our flagship campaign REVA Vanamahotsava has achieved its feat of planting 15,000 + saplings now. I am proud of the commitment showered by the students and faculties to environmental conservation and the reduction of global warming.

About REVA Vanamahotsava Started as the vision of Dr P Shyama Raju in August 2021, Vanamahotsava was launched as the 'One Student, One Tree' campaign, which aims to build a clean and green environment with active involvement of students. Through the campaign, the University aims to instil a sense of responsibility in students towards Mother Nature. With 15,000 students studying at the University, REVA aimed to plant 15,000 saplings by the year 2022. As part of the mission, in the first phase, students residing at REVA Hostels, and faculty members of REVA, were roped in to plant around 3,000 saplings. The plantation drive was carried out in association with the BBMP, and saplings were planted in pockets of forest areas, where there is a lack of greenery. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, REVA University's NSS unit supported the tree plantation drive through the digital initiative REVA TPMS (Tree Plantation Monitoring System). REVA TPMS is an android based mobile app tracker for plantation progress. As part of this drive, students and stakeholders are encouraged to install the APP and show concern for our society and environment. Trees planted and progress is recorded in the mobile APP, which aids to nurture the planted sapling to achieve a grown-up tree and showing concern for our environment. A team of 2099 students with the support of around 551 faculties planted more than 15,000 trees in the past 1 year.

Unique Features of APP

- Tree ID for every sapling for identification
- QR Code for the tree for recording progress
- Tree progress photo uploads
- User-friendly menus
- Certificate of appreciation to recognize the noble work of the planter
- Tracking of Trees - School Wise, Location Wise, Plant Type

Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor REVA University presenting the Indian tricolor national flag to Chief Guest Shri Ramesh Aravind at the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations held in the campus.

FROM PAGE ONE

Talaq petitioners living as 'half-divorcees'

In this state of half-divorce, Ms. Jahan, who joined the BJP Minority Morcha as the national secretary a few years ago, cannot hope to marry again. "I am not going to get married again. That ship has sailed. I am looking after my children. They are in different classes, V to XII. My husband has got married. He has a child."

Ms. Jahan has tried her hand at politics. She joined politics before the Lok Sabha election in 2019. "I joined politics because I needed a goal in life but people said so many things after I joined the BJP that it became difficult for me to walk in my lane at one time. Now, it is fine. Nobody disturbs me," says Ms. Jahan taking a little break from her sewing machine, her only source of earning. Similar is the case of two other petitioners, Gulshan Parveen and Aafreen Rehman. Technically their marriage subsists but practically, they are divorced, the court's ruling notwithstanding.

Says Zakia Soman, cofounder of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, "The marriages of the petitioners subsist but the husbands do not want to reconcile. If the women want to remarry, they will have to do *khula*. All the burden is on women. However, it was not a battle in vain as instances of triple talaq have come down since the verdict. Historically, these women are heroines."

China ship to dock in Sri Lanka on Tuesday

"Having considered all material in place, on 13 August 2022 the clearance to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China was conveyed for the deferred arrival of the vessel from 16-22 August 2022," the Ministry said, confirming the development, and the duration of the vessel to be berthed at the southern Hambantota Port.

Further, the Ministry stated that when it had cleared the scheduled visit earlier in July, it was based on the Defence Ministry's conditions that the visiting Chinese vessel's Automatic Identification System (AIS) be kept switched on within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Sri Lanka and that no scientific research be conducted in Sri Lankan waters.

The development comes after New Delhi raised the matter with President Ranil Wickremesinghe, and made public remarks twice at the Ministry of External Affairs's weekly briefing on July 28, and more recently, on Friday. India "carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests", MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi earlier said, and on Friday "rejected insinuations" that Sri Lanka was "pressured".

Rushdie on ventilator with damaged liver, eye

Matar has been charged with attempted murder and is being held without bond, the Chautauqua County District Attorney's office said on Saturday. Matar's parents had emigrated to the U.S. from Yaroun, a border village in southern Lebanon, the Mayor of the village, Ali Tehfe, said. Matar was born in California and recently moved to New Jersey, an *NBC New York* report said, adding that he had a fake driving licence on him.

The *Satanic Verses* drew death threats after it was published in 1988, with many Muslims regarding as blasphemy a dream sequence based on the life of Prophet Mohammed, among other objections.

Mr. Rushdie's book had already been banned and burned in India, Pakistan and elsewhere before Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a 1989 fatwa, calling for Mr. Rushdie's death.

Investigators were working to determine whether the assailant, born a decade after *The Satanic Verses* was published, acted alone.

Loan firm looted of 32 kg of pledged gold

It is suspected that the staff member who had gone out just before the robbery had returned with his associates for the robbery.

Additional Commissioner of Police T.S. Anbu said, "Preliminary investigation has revealed that Murugan, a staff member who worked as regional development officer, looted the jewellery along with two others."

One of the staff managed to alert the police at 3.30 p.m.

City Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal said, "Five teams have been formed to trace the accused."

The police said Mr. Murugan's role in the firm was to canvas for loans.

One of his associates gave the security guard cold drinks laced with sedatives but this did not work, an officer added.

Hizb chief's son, JKLF leader's wife sacked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday sacked four employees, including the son of Hizbul Mujahideen supremo Syed Salahuddin and the wife of JKLF leader Bitta Karate, for alleged involvement in anti-national activities.

Those sacked are Dr. Muheet Ahmad Bhat, a scientist in the Post-Graduate Department of Computer Science, University of Kashmir (UoK); Majid Hussain Qadri, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, UoK; Syed Abdul Mueed, Manager-IT, J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan, District Programme Officer, Publicity, Directorate of Rural Development, Kashmir.

Mr. Mueed is the son of United Jehad Council chief Syed Salahuddin, and Assabah-Ul-Arjamand Khan is the wife of JKLF leader Farooq Ahmad Dar, alias Bitta Karate, who is currently in judicial custody in terror-funding cases. They had come under the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies "as they have been found involved in activities prejudicial to the interests of the security of the state".

Sinha promises to wipe out terrorism from J&K

L-G emphasises the success of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in the U.T., and development in the past three years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Highlighting how the youth from the once-militancy-affected Tral, Shopian and Pulwama have been hoisting flags and raising slogans of *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* during the run-up to Independence Day in Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha on Saturday said the government "will push the last nail in the coffin of terrorism in one year".

> We have lost many innocent lives, now it has to stop. The right time has come to strike the last nail in the coffin of terrorism and its ecosystem. Your younger generation should not face the hardships that their forefathers went through.
>
> MANOJ SINHA, J&K Lieutenant Governor

"We have lost many innocent lives, now it has to stop. The right time has come to strike the last nail in the coffin of terrorism and its ecosystem. Your younger generation should not face the hardships that their forefathers went through. They must make the nation proud," Mr. Sinha said.

'Crown of India'

"J&K has been the crown of India. However, some elements hatched conspiracies to destabilise the region and foment trouble. We are committed to restoring the lost glory of the region. Today, in Pulwama, 10,000 youth are holding Tricolour in their hands. Same is the case with Shopian district and other districts of Kashmir. There is no coercion," he said.

BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur said the party office in Kashmir office was flooded with people wanting to purchase flags.

"The office distributed 20,000 flags in a day among citizens belonging to all districts of the Valley. This is a big slap on the face of those opposing the *Har Ghar Tiranga* initiative," he said.

'Dawn of development'

Mr. Sinha laid the foundation stone for 25 District Development Council and Block Development Council buildings and inaugurated 1,000 Amrit Sarovars across the Union Territory on Saturday.

Mr. Sinha said the Prime Minister in August 2019 bestowed the U.T. with a gift of a new dawn of development and prosperity. "For 70 years, the socio-economic system of Jammu and Kashmir was facing a serious crisis and in the last three years, the U.T. has achieved great strides in the direction of reducing the gap between villages and cities that had only widened in the last seven decades," he said.

Sacred obligation

The Lt. Governor said that it was our sacred obligation to defend every inch of the motherland, even if we have to sacrifice everything. "We shall be ready," he added.

He said some people, at the behest of the neighbouring country, were trying to create disturbance in J&K. "The neighbouring country, which itself is living in misery, can't do any good to the people of J&K," he added.

Peace is prerequisite

Stating that peace was a prerequisite for development, he said, "People wearing dark glasses can't see development taking place in J&K. A record one crore tourists visited J&K this year. Srinagar airport saw 110 flights operating in a day.

Mr. Sinha also said that no civilian was killed by the security force in the past three years, adding, "We are following the policy of don't touch innocent people and don't leave the culprit."

'Wankhede is from SC community'

He belongs to Mahar caste, says panel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The caste scrutiny committee has given a clean chit to former Mumbai Zonal Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sameer Wankhede and held he has proven that he was not a Muslim by birth and he belongs to the Mahar caste.

Sameer Wankhede

The 91-page order issued by the Social Justice Department of the Maharashtra government on Friday said Mr. Wankhede, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, was not a Muslim by birth and it has been proven that he belongs to the Mahar caste, which is a Scheduled Caste (SC).

Mr. Wankhede's caste was questioned by former Maharashtra Minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Nawab Malik and other complainants like Manoj Sansare, Ashok and Sanjay Kamble alleging that he is a Muslim by birth. However, the Mumbai district caste certificate verification committee held that Mr. Wankhede and his father Dyaneshwar had not renounced Hinduism and adopted the Muslim religion.

Mr. Wankhede had come to the limelight following the high-profile October 2021 raids by the NCB on a Mumbai cruise after which the agency had arrested Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, and 19 others and claimed to have seized some narcotics too.

On April 29, the committee issued notice to Mr. Wankhede noting that complaints and documents against him prove that he is a Muslim.

Mr. Wankhede, however, challenged the notice and filed a petition before the Bombay High Court on May 4 stating that "the notice was illegal, arbitrary and issued without giving him an opportunity to defend himself."

The petition mentioned that he belongs to the Mahar community, which comes under the Scheduled Caste and that he has never given any false information or filed any false documents to obtain his caste certificate. The plea added that his mother is a Muslim however, he is a Hindu.

On Saturday, Mr. Wankhede said in a tweet in Hindi, "*Satyamev Jayate*."

Opposition resolves to fight against 'misuse' of EVMs

11 political parties have passed three resolutions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Eleven Opposition parties, including the Congress, on Saturday, resolved to fight against what they called the misuse of electronic voting machines (EVMs), money power and the media by the BJP-led government at the Centre, claiming it poses the "gravest challenge" to democracy in India.

Members of an NGO and political parties discussing the challenges faced by India. • TWITTER/@DIGVIJAYA_28

The 11 parties are the Congress, CPI(M), SP, BSP, CPI, NCP, TRS, RJD, RLD, Welfare Party and Swaraj India. Three resolutions were passed at a conference attended by these parties here. At the conference, they discussed and deliberated at length the challenge of 3Ms – machine, money and media – faced by India's electoral democracy and unanimously passed the resolutions on them.

The first resolution was on EVM and VVPAT counting in which they said that it is recognised that purely EVM-based voting and counting does not comply with "democracy principles" which require that each voter should be able to verify that his or her vote is cast-as-intended; recorded-as-cast and counted-as-recorded.

They claimed EVMs cannot be assumed to be tamper-proof. "The voting process should be redesigned to be software and hardware independent in order to be verifiable or auditable. The VVPAT (voter verifiable paper audit trail) system should be re-designed to be fully voter-verified. A voter should be able to get the VVPAT slip and cast it in a chip-free ballot box for the vote to be valid and counted," the resolution stated.

In the second resolution, the parties stated how massive money power and the criminal muscle-power created thereof is destroying the very integrity of India's elections. "Candidates expenses have a ceiling but political party spending does not have any ceiling. The fast-rising economic oligarchy in the country threatening India as a welfare state is the direct fallout of this extreme criminal and money power in elections which is the fountainhead of all corruption in the country," they said.

The parties claimed that the government, using the Money Bill route to bypass Rajya Sabha, introduced the electoral bond scheme that has increased opaqueness and consolidated the role of big money in electoral politics.

The third resolution was on how India's mediascape has undergone a major transformation with the exponential growth in the use of the internet.

"Unfortunately, communication technologies and media platforms are creating polarization through the circulation of disinformation and hate-filled text posts and tweets. Despite guidelines and codes, ECI (Election Commission of India) has not seemed to be taking cognizance of the many violations in the past elections. ECI failed to curb fake news online before and during these elections," the resolution said.

'Many places were on JeM man's hit list'

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Police have said that Muhammad Nadeem, an alleged Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist arrested by the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Friday, has said during the interrogation that since 2018, he had been in touch with JeM handlers in Pakistan and on their instruction, was planning to conduct terrorist activities in many places in the State.

Nadeem has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) at the ATS police station in Lucknow. He was allegedly tasked with killing suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma. "In 2018, Nadeem came into online contact with Hakimullah, a member of the JeM in Pakistan, who introduced him to another member, Saifullah. Nadeem created virtual IDs from India and sent them to Pakistani handlers so he may hide his digital footprint. Saifullah gave him a manual to make IEDs," said Prashant Kumar, Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order).

Nadeem was also said to be in touch with several handlers on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border who encouraged him to conduct anti-India activities. "They encouraged him to conduct anti-India activities here," he said.

Use e-filing system for affidavit: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court recently refused to accept a hard copy of an affidavit submitted by a city planning agency of the Maharashtra government and observed that "it is high time the State government and its agencies started using the e-filing system invariably".

A Division Bench of Justices G.S. Patel and Gauri Godse was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by an NGO *Vanshakti* through advocate Zaman Ali, seeking to protect wetlands and forests. Advocate G.S. Hegde, appearing for the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO), wanted to file a hard copy of the affidavit.

However, the Bench said, "We decline to take hard copies. It is incongruous that in an environmental PIL that seek to protect wetlands and filed by a social action group that seeks to protect forests, more and more paper is being used like this."

The court added, "If matters carry on like this, we will never be able to shift to a paperless environment – and that is the avowed objective and goal of the State government itself."

Tricolour seen on RSS social media accounts

'It is part of planned I-day celebrations'

ISHITA MISHRA
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, along with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, changed the display picture on social media accounts to the Tricolour to mark its support to the *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The RSS Twitter account also showed pictures of Mohan Bhagwat hoisting the Tricolour in the past.

The RSS top brass maintained that the change was part of its "strategy" for the 75th anniversary of Independence and has nothing to do with criticism from Opposition parties that had pointed out that the RSS had not hoisted the Tricolour in its Nagpur headquarters for several decades.

Apart from changing the display picture, Mr. Bhagwat met District Magistrate of Nagpur R. Vimala, who presented the National Flag to him on Saturday.

The flag was hoisted at the RSS headquarters in an event where senior functionaries, including Ram Harkare and Rajesh Loya, were present.

The RSS, on its social media accounts, shared a video of Mr. Bhagwat and other Sangh office-bearers hoisting the Tricolour. "Celebrate the 'amrit mahotsav' of Independence. Hoist the Tricolour in every house," said the RSS Twitter post.

The move comes in the wake of questions being posed by the Congress and other Opposition leaders to the RSS on their engagement with the Tricolour. The RSS top brass, however, maintained that the initiative had nothing to do with the criticism but was part of a planned strategy to celebrate the 75th year of Independence.

"The flag hoisting by Mohan Bhagwat will continue on Sunday and Monday as well," said a senior Sangh functionary.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence, Mr. Modi has appealed to all Indians to change their social media display pictures with the Tricolour.

Sonia again contracts COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Over two months after contracting the novel coronavirus infection, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday tested positive for COVID-19 again and will remain in isolation.

Earlier this week, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had tested positive.

"Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for COVID-19 today. She will remain in isolation as per Govt. protocol," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet Saturday.

Ms. Gandhi tested positive for COVID-19 in early June as well. Days after she had tested positive, the 75-year-old leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on June 12. She was discharged on June 20. "Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 today. We wish her speedy recovery and good health," the party said on its official Twitter handle on Saturday.

Several leaders including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, wished Ms. Gandhi a speedy recovery.

M.P. dam breach: Army, NDRF teams reach Dhar

Two IAF helicopters are on standby

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAR

Teams of the Army and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Saturday reached Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, where a breach on the wall of an under-construction dam across the Karam river had set off alarm bells.

Two helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were put on standby to deal with any emergency situation, officials said.

The government said water was being safely drained out from the reservoir to reduce pressure on its wall.

The Opposition Congress raised a question mark over the quality of work of the dam and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led State government of indulging in corruption with regards to the project estimated at ₹304 crore.

The leakage of water from the dam was reported around 1 p.m. on Thursday. The reservoir of the dam was filling up with water for the first time this monsoon as it was under construction, officials said.

People shifted safely

As a precautionary measure, people from 12 villages in Dhar district and six villages in Khargone district have been shifted to safer places, officials stated, adding that these settlements were downstream of the dam.

State Water Resources Minister Tulsi Silawat issued a statement on Saturday, saying that an Army team had reached Dhar to deal with an emergency and the NDRF had also got down to work. He said the situation was under complete control and water from the dam was being drained out safely to reduce the pressure on the reservoir walls.

The dam was coming up at a cost of ₹304 crore, of which ₹174 crore have been spent so far, official sources said. Around 200 Army personnel, including engineers, and three teams of the NDRF from Bhopal as well as from Gujarat's Vadodara Surat have reached Dhar. Each team has around 30 to 35 members. Besides them, eight groups of the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) are at work in Dhar, they said.

The 590-metre-long and 52-metre-high dam, a medium-level irrigation project, has 15 million cubic metre (MCM) water in its reservoir, Dr. Rajora said

Apart from Mr. Silawat, Industries Minister Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon was also at the dam site, officials said.

INTERVIEW | MANOJ K. JHA

'BJP will get only two seats in Bihar in the next Lok Sabha election'

The saffron party wants to replicate the 'China model' in the country by finishing all regional parties to establish a one-party rule, says RJD leader

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Days ahead of the formation of the new Nitish Kumar Cabinet in Bihar, senior RJD leader and Rajya Sabha member **Manoj K. Jha** *says the coming together of the RJD and the JD(U) will leave the BJP with just two seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election in the State. At present, the BJP has 17 out of the 40 seats in the State.*

What prompted the RJD to go back on its own assertions to never tie up again with Nitish Kumar and the JD(U)?

■ All such assertions have to be seen in the present context. We had to take into account the events of Maharashtra where the BJP's machinations led to the fall of an elected government or Jharkhand where the Hemant Soren government is threatened.

In Bihar, too there is ample evidence that the BJP was out to finish the JD(U) and break other parties too. In that context, all those assertions have to be revisited. Ultimately what is politics meant for? To make sure that the Constitution and democracy are protected and preserved. It was against this backdrop that Tejashwiji and the RJD did what was best and what was needed.

How is the 2022 Mahagatbandhan different from that of 2015?

■ The changed course of history is the difference. Nitishji regretted his 2017 decision saying that he was misled by a few people. Also remember, in 2015 we came together as electoral partners; this time, our partnership is based on the common goal to protect democracy from the BJP, which is out to finish the regional parties. The other big difference is that in 2015, Narendra Modi's BJP was just one year old, we were yet to see all its shades. By 2022, we have seen enough. They desire to replicate a China here to establish a one-party polity.

The present Union government has failed on every index, be it economic or social development

How will you both communicate this nuance to the voters and escape the label of being parties that change positions far too frequently?

■ We believe that the voters have an agency. Bihar may be a poor State but our voters are far more vigilant. This decision to come together is also dictated by demand from the ground. BJP president J.P. Nadda's comments that only the BJP shall remain standing, created a sentiment that their rampage against the regional forces must be stalled.

How long will this alliance last?

■ Mark my words, this question won't be asked again, we are going to last for good. We are going to make sure, that out of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in the State, the BJP won't win more than two seats in the 2024 general elections. And their tally will be reduced in Jharkhand.

The Opposition is euphoric after what they call a "secular" change in Bihar. But isn't the Opposition unity a mythical fable? In the rare instances in 1977, 1989 or 1996 when they united, they have failed to deliver stable governments. Isn't it hyperbolic to say that Bihar will have an effect on the rest of the nation?

■ Stability or instability should be seen from a larger perspective. If you compare the governance model of the so-called unstable coalition government, they have delivered far more pro-people decisions. I would say that the myth that a single-party majoritarian rule will usher India into a new era has been debunked.

The present union government has failed on every index, be it economic or social development. Yes, I agree that Opposition parties get euphoric, but the message from our reunion should be to jettison your ego, learn to sit together and begin a conversation. The Opposition needs to remember to put the nation ahead of its priorities.

Is the call 'Nitish for PM' empty rhetoric or is it based on any understanding?

■ As Tejashwiji said, Nitishji is one of the most experienced politicians in the country. But at the same time, he has said this and I reiterate, the question is not Narendra Modi versus who? The question is Narendra Modi's idea of India versus what? The Opposition has to arrive at a common progressive programme and vision.

The far more difficult task of Cabinet formation lies ahead. Have you evolved a power-sharing formula?

■ Everything has been discussed between the two leaders Nitishji and Tejashwiji as also other alliance partners.

Is there also an agreement between the JD(U) and RJD to hand over the Bihar baton to Tejashwi Yadav in 2024?

■ Nobody can predict what will happen. As of now, it is not part of the discussion.

'U.S. worried over routing of Russia oil'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

The United States has expressed concern to India that it was being used to export fuel made from Russian crude, through high-seas transfers to hide its origin, to New York in violation of U.S. sanctions, a top Indian central banker said on Saturday.

The U.S. Treasury Department told India that an Indian ship picked up oil from a Russian tanker on the high seas and brought it to a port in Gujarat on the west coast, where it was refined and shipped on, said Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Michael Patra.

'No destination'

"The refined output was put back on that ship and it set sail without a destination. In the mid-seas it received the destination so it reached its course, went to New York," Mr. Patra said at an event to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence.

The U.S. embassy in New Delhi had no immediate comment. Mr. Patra's comments are India's first official public reference to such U.S. concerns.

Positive impetus to ties: Chinese envoy

In rare media briefing, Ambassador Sun Weidong discusses LAC tensions, Taiwan and terror listings

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India and China are seeing a "positive impetus" to ties, given two meetings between the Foreign Ministers in the past few months and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attendance at the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) summit in June, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said on Saturday.

Mr. Sun noted that China expects to welcome back Indian students to resume their studies in the country in the "near future". He did not, however, state whether Mr. Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping would meet in the next few months, when they are both expected to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Samarkand in September and the G-20 summit in Bali in November.

Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping will attend the SCO Summit in September. • FILE PHOTO

In his first press conference since the military stand-off at the LAC began after Chinese troops amassed there in April 2020, Mr. Sun defended China's actions at the Line of Actual Control, as well as the decision to place on hold UN Security Council terror listings for Pakistan-based terrorists, that India had proposed.

Mr. Sun said that the situation at the LAC at present is "overall stable", and efforts are on to resolve the issue, comments that were at some variance to those of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Mr. Jaishankar has said that bilateral relations are "far from normal" due to the tensions at the boundary, and that several rounds of talks had not yielded any resolution.

"Since 2020 we have kept diplomatic and military channels open and kept a series of meetings of corps commanders that have resulted in disengagement in some parts. Currently the border is overall stable, and the 16th round of talks (on July 17) ended with a joint statement issued where both sides agreed to continue the talks," Mr. Sun said, adding that the two sides "would go by the guidance of the leaders [President Xi and PM Modi]."

In Bengaluru on Friday, Mr. Jaishankar had said that the India-China relationship "cannot be normal as the border situation is not normal", adding that LAC tensions could lead to a "dangerous situation", and more talks were needed.

In response to a question from *The Hindu* on terrorism, Mr. Sun insisted there was no contradiction between Beijing's pronouncements at the BRICS summit and at the UN on countering terror, and its actions on blocking a series of terrorist designations requested by India at the Security Council, including the proposals on LeT deputy chief Abdur Makki and JeM deputy chief Rauf Asghar.

"We [India and China] will keep coordinating on this issue," said the Chinese Ambassador, "We need some time to study these specific cases, but that doesn't mean China has changed its position on counter-terrorism cooperation efforts."

Taiwan situation

Briefing the media on the Taiwan situation, Mr. Sun, who spoke a day after the MEA broke its silence on the tensions in the Taiwan strait, said that the India-China relationship was based on the "One China" principle and called upon India to "reiterate" it. On Friday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had called on all parties not to change the status quo over Taiwan, which appeared to be aimed at China for crossing the median line in recent military exercises.

"It is very clear that it is the U.S. that has altered the status quo and undermined peace and stability. China's measures are justified and legitimate," Mr. Sun said, referring to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan this month.

"One China principle is the basis of India-China relations, as well as China's relations with all other countries. My understanding is India's One China policy has not changed and we do hope the Indian side will reiterate it," Mr. Sun said.

The Chinese Ambassador also rejected the idea, that there was any comparison between the tensions between China and Taiwan, and the stand-off at the LAC.

"Taiwan is different in nature as Taiwan is an internal affair, and the solution lies between the Chinese government and the people. China-India boundary question is an issue left by history. This is a boundary dispute, very different from the Taiwan question," Mr. Sun said when asked if there were similarities in the aggression shown by the Chinese military on both fronts.

Taliban offer security to Indian mission

India's diplomatic presence welcomed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Foreign Ministry of the Taliban dispensation in Afghanistan on Saturday said it welcomed India's diplomatic presence in Kabul and promised to ensure security to the Indian mission in the Afghan capital.

In a statement, it said India's diplomatic presence in Afghanistan would result in the completion of "unfinished projects" that India had initiated and the commencement of new ones.

The Indian Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Diplomatic presence

The statement said Afghanistan "welcomes India's step to upgrade its diplomatic representation in Kabul". In June, India re-established its diplomatic presence in Kabul by deploying a "technical team" in its embassy in the Afghan capital.

India had withdrawn its officials from the embassy after the Taliban seized power last August following concerns over their security.

"Besides ensuring security, we will pay close attention to the immunity of the diplomats and cooperate well in endeavours," it said.

"The Afghan government hopes that upgrading diplomatic representation and dispatching diplomats would strengthen Afghan-India relations leading to the completion of unfinished projects by India and the commencement of new vital projects," the Afghan Foreign Ministry said.

Last month, Taliban supreme leader Hebatullah Akhundzada said no one would be allowed to use Afghan soil to launch attacks on other countries.

India has not recognised the new regime in Afghanistan and has been pitching for the formation of a truly inclusive government in Kabul, besides insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

'Competitive patriotism' between BJP, Congress

They trade barbs on functions to mark Independence Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 75th Independence Day, the ruling BJP and the Congress are indulging in competitive patriotism.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday took a dig at the BJP for not holding special functions at the historic Central Hall of Parliament to mark the occasion. The BJP retorted, asking the Congress leaders to share pictures hoisting the Tricolour.

Mr. Ramesh said special functions were held at the Central Hall to mark the 25th, 50th and 60th anniversary of Independence.

"Sadly, nothing like that has been organised for the 75th anniversary, which has been reduced to an occasion to glorify the *Sarvagyaani* (one who knows it all)," the Congress general secretary said.

In response, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said Mr. Ramesh found fault with everything.

Mr. Patra said the *Har Ghar Tiranga* initiative of the government to mark the 75th anniversary was not a matter of politics, and added that the BJP leaders had hoisted the National Flag at their homes as part of the exercise.

"If Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have hoisted the flag as well, the Congress should share their pictures as the BJP members have done," he added.

Children participate in a *Har Ghar Tiranga* rally in Hyderabad. • NAGARA GOPAL

Mr. Patra also criticised the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal for restricting the *Tiranga Yatra* headed by BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, saying it showed how far the party was "removed from patriotism and nationalism".

Earlier in the day, as part of the campaign, BJP president J.P. Nadda hoisted the Tricolour at his residence in Delhi.

"*Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign has brought the entire nation together and it is inspiring people to contribute towards the nation in whatever manner they can," he said.

Mr. Nadda exhorted all citizens to put up flags at their homes, offices and commercial establishments.

"Let us take the pledge to re-establish India as *Vishwaguru*," he added. He also visited an exhibition put up at the BJP headquarters in Delhi to mark Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

The BJP leaders across the country are taking out *Tiranga Yatras* as part of the initiative.

Unwilling to give up what the Congress considers its legacy, the principal Opposition party launched its own celebrations to observe the 75th anniversary of Independence Day and to honour the Tricolour.

In Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched a short film as part of the *Hamar Tiranga* campaign to showcase India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru hoisting the National Flag.

"Our Tricolour is our pride. The sight of our waving flag gives shape to our visionary leadership and the labour and valour of our citizens," Mr. Baghel tweeted on Friday.

The party is organising *Azadi Ka Gaurav Yatra* in every State in which senior Congress leaders are participating.

Apart from that, Karnataka Congress chief D.K. Shivakumar will organise a Freedom March on Tuesday.

Spotlight back on pending cases against U.P. Ministers

Govt. may take steps to withdraw 'politically motivated' cases

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

The issue of pending cases against Ministers and MLAs in Uttar Pradesh has once again come to the fore, following the recent drama that unfolded during the conviction of Cabinet Minister Rakesh Sachan in a 30-year-old Arms Act case and also the issuance of a non-bailable warrant against Sanjay Nishad, another Minister in the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet.

Late fall: Rakesh Sachan with his lawyers at a court in connection with a 1991 arms case, in Kanpur on August 8. • PTI

Informed sources in Lucknow suggested that the State government could soon initiate the process of collecting data from the district administrations about the nature of pending cases against Ministers and legislators and may initiate a process to withdraw allegedly "politically motivated" cases lodged against them.

A report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), a New Delhi-based organisation which works in the area of political reforms, said 22 Ministers in the Uttar Pradesh government had declared criminal cases against them.

Of them, 20 face serious criminal charges such as murder, kidnapping, rape and crimes against women.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Minister for Industrial development Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh, Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyaya are among those facing criminal charges. Roughly half of the legislators in the Assembly face criminal cases.

This is not the first time that the Yogi Adityanath government has recommended withdrawal of cases against Ministers. The government had in July submitted a petition in the Allahabad High court to withdraw a criminal case against Minister Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh.

In its first term too, the government had recommended withdrawal of as many as 670 cases against politicians and political workers between April 2017 and July 2020.

"It's well known that during previous governments, cases were lodged due to political vendetta against leaders. There is a continuous process to withdraw these type of cases; serious criminal cases can only be withdrawn after court's order. Everything will happen as per law. Other governments have also withdrawn cases against people's representatives," Rakesh Tripathi, State BJP spokesperson, said.

As per the rules, before withdrawing cases, the State government needs to seek a report from the district administration concerned on specific points. The report is then placed before a committee under the Ministry of Law, which makes its recommendation.

"In the present time all objectives are gone. Cases against politicians have been withdrawn on previous occasions too, but never has the CM signed withdrawal of cases against himself, which happened during the last tenure. Future governments will also use it as an idea. It is bad for the entire political system," Sharad Pradhan, a political analyst based in Lucknow, said.

India, Italy negotiate legal assistance treaty

Pact yet to be signed amid concerns

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

India and Italy are finetuning a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) that will help the two countries obtain formal assistance in investigation related to criminal cases.

Though the two countries have held two rounds of negotiation, the final agreement is said to be stuck amid concerns that maximum punishment for heinous crimes in India is the "death penalty", which has been abolished in Italy.

Earlier, Germany had also refused to sign the MLAT with India on death penalty grounds.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, "Mutual Legal Assistance is a mechanism whereby countries cooperate with one another in order to provide and obtain formal assistance in prevention, suppression, investigation and prosecution of crime to ensure that the criminals do not escape or sabotage the due process of law for want of evidence available in different countries."

While India has so far signed MLAT with 45 countries, India and Italy do not have a bilateral agreement on criminal matters so far.

The investigating agencies probing the 2013 Agusta Westland chopper scam had to face multiple hurdles when Italy refused to extradite Carlo Gerosa, one of the three middlemen wanted by the CBI.

It had contended in 2018 that the extradition could not take place as the two countries did not have an MLAT or a formal extradition agreement.

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Pune's iconic 'Gadgil Wada' had a pride of place in Freedom Struggle

Built by Congressman and freedom fighter Kakasaheb Gadgil in 1932, the ***Wada*** was a microcosm of all the excitement and passion of the epic movement

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

As the country gears up for the 75th anniversary of Independence, the walls of the Gadgil *Wada*, witness to a fascinating period of the freedom struggle, stand tall in the heart of old Pune.

At first glance, the three-storey structure in Shaniwar Peth seems indistinguishable from the 1,200-odd *wadas* that formed the pulsing heart of the Peshwa-era Pune.

Yet, it was in Gadgil Wada that Pune had its momentous tryst with the freedom struggle through the towering personality of Kakasaheb Gadgil, who had purchased the plot of land where the structure was built in 1932.

In 1942, after Congress Working Committee (CWC) members were released from Ahmednagar Jail, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Maulana Azad and others chose this place to deliberate over the future course of the freedom struggle.

Gadgil *Wada* was where plans for the reconstitution of the socialist Rashtra Seva Dal took place in early 1940s, with socialists like S.M. Joshi, N.G. Gore, Shirubhau Limaye and Kakasaheb in the lead.

Such significant history began with a chance encounter between Kaksaheb and a few thirsty crows. When he came looking for a place to build a house in Shaniwar Peth, the Kahasaheb saw crows drinking water in the northeast corner of the piece of land that now bears the *Wada*.

"According to a belief held by Kakasaheb, this meant that this house on this plot would never be without a visitor. Today, the *Wada* is 90 years old and it is the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. Not a single day passes without a visitor curious to know what happened here and who were the great personages that graced its premises," says senior Congressman Anant Gadgil, Kakasaheb's grandson.

Interestingly, despite being situated at the heart of the right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) turf, the *Wada* has been a confluence of competing ideologies – Left, Centre and Right with everyone from Congress leaders and Prime Ministers to the BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee setting foot there.

Long legacy: Ninety years since it was built, Gadgil Wada still receives visitors every day, thirsty for its history.

"The area is dominated by a hard-core RSS Brahmin population. Yet, Gadgil *Wada*, a beacon of even-tempered political ideology, soon became Pune's nerve-centre of freedom movement as Kakasaheb, influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, plunged heart and soul in the Independence struggle," he says.

A microcosm of history

A highlight of the *Wada* is a 500-sq.ft courtyard in the centre, which was once always occupied by freedom fighters plotting and planning their next moves, Mr. Gadgil says.

"In 1942, after the Congress Working Committee was released from Ahmednagar Jail, Sardar Patel suggested that before going to Delhi, they must all must deliberate for a while in 'a free atmosphere' at a nearby place. When suggestions were asked as to what would be the most suitable place, Pandit Nehru immediately reacted saying why look for a place when our friend Kakasaheb has a house in Pune," Mr. Gadgil says.

"There was no 'resort culture' then. And it must be noted that these tall leaders – Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad, Rajendra Prasad and the others – slept on ordinary mattresses," says Mr. Gadgil, alluding to the deterioration of political culture among all parties in the country today.

The *Wada* is a microcosm of all the excitement and passion of the freedom struggle. At one point, the British government had decided to arrest Kakasaheb for making a series of provocative speeches.

SPECIAL

The entire area, known as Mehunpura, was encircled by the police. When the police stormed the house, Anandibai Gadgil (Kakasaheb's wife) stood her ground, demanding reasons for their intrusion.

"Her bold strategy to engage the police in argument for nearly half an hour gave time to the freedom fighters cloistered in the house to put on a variety of disguises and bolt right under the noses of the British police," Mr. Gadgil says.

Despite Kakasaheb being an ardent believer of Gandhi's ideal of 'non-violence', the *Wada* was often used as a "safe house" by freedom fighters of all hues.

"Once, when the police raided Gagdil *Wada*, they found literature on bomb-making, which actually belonged to other revolutionaries using the *Wada*. This group had planned to kill some English officers during a cultural programme. While this plan fizzled out, it is testament to the *Wada*'s 'accommodative nature' during the freedom struggle," Mr. Gadgil says.

Just how palpable the duelling between competing ideologies was at the time is best illustrated in an interesting anecdote from the early 1940s.

One day, when veteran socialist leaders S.M. Joshi, N.G. Gore and S. Limaye were walking towards the *Wada*, they spotted Kakasaheb's son, a teenaged Vitthal Gadgil (later to be a Congress stalwart in his own right) playing cricket on the road outside Motibaug, which was the main RSS main centre located barely 500 feet from Gadgil Wada.

"In a memorable conversation, the Socialists told Kakasaheb that today this generation is playing outside Motibaug, but tomorrow, they should not become part of Motibaug," recalls Anant Gadgil.

That very evening, the socialist leaders met at the *Wada* and decided to reconstitute the Rashtra Seva Dal to counter the RSS ideologically.

Despite many dignitaries visiting this iconic *Wada*, it was Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit that had a touch of humour. Reportedly, when he had asked Vitthal Gadgil for the *Wada*'s address, the latter remarked that his house was the lone oasis in the RSS 'desert' of Shaniwar Peth. "Vajpayee*ji* had a hearty laugh about it. But then, such has been the pull of this *Wada* that all those who visited were charmed by it," says Mr. Gadgil.

Way out: Punjab Agricultural University has recommended alternative agrochemicals to control pests. • PTI

Punjab bans use of 10 insecticides

High residue levels in basmati rice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Amid reports that several samples of basmati rice contained the residue of certain pesticides above the maximum residue level (MRL), a potential constraint in its export, the Punjab government has decided to ban the use of 10 of these formulations for 60 days from Friday.

The State Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, in its notification, said the State government believed that the sale, stock distribution, and use of Acephate, Buprofezin, Chloropyriphos, Methamidophos, Propiconazole, Thiamethoxam, Profenofos, Isoprothiolane, Carbendazim, and Tricyclazole was not in the interest of basmati rice growers.

It is said that there is a risk of breaching the MRL fixed by the competent authority for basmati rice. Besides, the Punjab Agricultural University has recommended alternative agrochemicals to control pests on the basmati crop in Punjab.

Pointing out that the Punjab Rice Millers and Exporters Association had also reported that several samples got tested by them contained the residue value of these pesticides above the MRL in basmati rice, the notification said the association had requested the ban of these agrochemicals to save the State's basmati produce and to ensure its hassle-free export.

Alternatives to the said insecticides are available in the market, it added.

SUDOKU

	7		3	8	2			5
3	5							
6			1		4			
			8	7			2	3
5	8			3	6			
			6		8			7
							8	9
8			5	2	3		6	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	4	6	7	5	1	3	2
3	2	7	1	9	8	5	4	6
5	1	6	3	4	2	7	8	9
1	7	8	4	5	9	6	2	3
6	4	3	2	8	1	9	5	7
2	5	9	7	3	6	4	1	8
4	3	1	9	2	7	8	6	5
8	9	2	5	6	4	3	7	1
7	6	5	8	1	3	2	9	4

In Kolkata, a tribute to forgotten revolutionaries

West Bengal State Archives brings to life the memory of less-known freedom fighters in a series of I-Day exhibitions

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Sovarani Dutta was 29 years old when she was convicted in the Dalhousie Square Bomb case. She was a member of the revolutionary group Jugantar.

Parul Mukherjee was 25 when she was convicted in the Titagarh conspiracy case, which involved making explosives. A member of the Anushilan Samiti, she was convicted twice in September 1935 and in April 1937.

Stories of numerous such women revolutionaries have been brought to the fore by the West Bengal State Archives through its physical and virtual exhibition in the lead-up to the 75th year of Independence.

From the Chuar Uprising, one of the earliest popular uprisings at the end of 18th century, to the revolt of Birsa Munda towards the end of 19th century, the exhibition takes into account more than half-a-dozen public uprisings against the British Raj.

"In the exhibition, a special section has been dedicated to women revolutionaries. Other than Pritilata (Waddedar) Bina Das and Matangini Hazra, there are several other revolutionaries who participated in the freedom struggle and about whom we don't have any information in the textbooks... About such women, there is a mine of information in the archives," Simonti Sen, director of State Archives, said in a video message about the exhibition.

Grand repository: A visitor looks at an exhibition in Kolkata on less-known revolutionaries of the Freedom Struggle. • DEBASISH BHADURI

The State Archives, which is one the largest collection of colonial records in West Bengal, has also put on display some never-before-seen documents like an action plan chalked out by the Collector of Birbhum (spelt Beerbhoom in the documents) against the Santhal Rebellion.

The Kolkata circle of the Archaeological Survey of India has also organised an exhibition on less-known revolutionaries at Kolkata's Metcalfe Hall, a protected monument.

"We have tried to highlight unknown revolutionaries like Mrigendranath Dutta, Brojo Kishor Chakraborty and Bhawani Prasad Bhattacharya among others. The exhibition on the occasion of 75 years has photographs of both well-known and unknown revolutionaries," Subha Majumdar, Superintending Archaeologists of the Kolkata Circle of the ASI, said.

Almost 48 hours before the country turns 75, protected monuments like Metcalfe Hall and Currency Building are being lit in the colours of the National Flag.

Events aplenty

Victoria Memorial Hall (VHM), the most majestic of the colonial buildings in the city, has over the past few years taken up major initiatives highlighting the freedom struggle and the role of revolutionaries.

The Biplobi Bharat Gallery, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 23, 2022, displays the contribution of the revolutionaries to the freedom struggle and their armed resistance to British colonial rule.

Biplobi Bharat, which can be translated as "revolutionary India", has a focus on the revolutionary movement, formation of significant associations by revolutionary leaders, the spread of the movement, formation of the Indian National Army, and contribution of the Naval Mutiny, among others.

The Hall's curator Jayanta Sengupta said the VMH also has a big exhibition on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Freedom Struggle, and a three-dimensional mapping show on the same subject.

The Indian Museum, which is the oldest museum in the Subcontinent, in partnership with DAG, has put together an exhibition titled March to Freedom.

According to the organisers of the show, instead of following a chronological order of the historical events, the narrative of the exhibition has been divided into eight distinct thematic sections.

The first section titled Battles for Freedom will investigate the significance of the myriad wars scattered through India's past.

INTERVIEW | ALOK KUMAR

'Subsidies on power will continue'

Power Secretary says State governments will have the discretion to continue concessions

JACOB P. KOSHY

The Centre's move to introduce the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 has stoked protests by Opposition parties and trade unions on the grounds that it violated the Constitutional principles of federalisation and was a step towards privatising the electricity sector and would make power costly. Secretary of the Ministry of Power, **Alok Kumar** *speaks on the concerns over the provisions of the Bill, its intent and the reforms it envisages. Excerpts:*

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha and referred to a Standing Committee following stringent protests. Did the Centre anticipate this degree of opposition?

■ When reforms are introduced, there are always different shades of views. This Bill was drafted following the Budget of 2021 and we have undertaken consultations with all States, industry bodies, regulators. Most States had supported the provisions. In the course of discussions, there were also objections on some aspects by States.

What were the concerns raised by States?

■ A major concern raised was that of 'cherry picking' (or when a new player with an electricity distribution licence can choose areas with maximum paying customers, and avoid regions where such electricity charges collection is historically negligible). This is incorrect.

All players with a licence continue to be bound by the Universal Service Obligation (that mandates power to be provided to rural and remote residents at affordable rates).

Second, we have proposed that the Central government prescribe the area to be served by a licensee ... and we have moved to further increase this unless the State government decides on a smaller area. A sufficiently large area, like a municipal corporation, for instance, would ensure a wide mix of consumers. We have built-in provisions such as cross-subsidy and wheeling charges in the maximum chargeable price, to safeguard against such cherry-picking. (Wheeling charges are money paid to an existing licensee by a new one for use of an electricity distribution network).

So, to clarify, farmers who currently get free electricity or those who get subsidised electricity will continue to receive them?

■ Absolutely. The Electricity Act doesn't mention 'free' electricity. Section 65 says State governments may give subsidies to any class of consumers and there is no change at all in this section. The State government will have the discretion to continue free or subsidised power. Reducing cross-subsidies have always been mentioned in the tariff policy (Electricity Act) and for it to be reduced as per the recommendation of the State commission. Those provisions continue. It is a complete myth that the new Bill proposes to do away with subsidies or free power.

A major problem in the electricity distribution sector is the poor financial health of electricity distribution companies (States collectively owe them over ₹1 trillion). Can the entry of private players, as the Electricity Bill envisages, solve this?

■ A discom's financial health depends on three factors: properly determining tariffs, the government paying discoms the subsidies it owes and their operational efficiency. This Bill helps with strengthening discoms ability to determine tariffs, we have several provisions outside this Bill to see that these subsidies are paid and finally, the operational efficiencies of several discoms are improving over time. Of these, the first two factors are relatively more important.

We have undertaken consultations with all States, industry bodies, regulators. Most States had supported the provisions

Under the amended Bill, an existing licensee can earn wheeling charges from new licensees; second, there is a lot of unmet demand that this Bill will facilitate as well as improve the ability to collect charges and help fund cross-subsidies.

There are a lot of industries that have captive power plants because electricity access is unreliable and if they can be serviced by more players, that money will flow into the collective pool. This Bill will induce competitive pressure on incumbent licensees.

Is the telecom sector the reference point for which reforms in the electricity sector are envisioned?

■ The economic principle is that the same wire or network shouldn't be duplicated, it must be shared. We are also not changing the ownership structure of any asset.

The changes in the telecom sector saw job losses and churn. Do you expect similar things to happen here?

■ There will hardly be job loss, in fact, there will be new jobs because there will be new people to cater to...

States can subsidise but how will private players agree to this?

■ The Electricity Act doesn't distinguish between State and private sector licensees. A State government's decision to provide a subsidy applies to both public and private sector entities.

Full interview at bit.ly/alokinterview

Unnao rape survivor seeks transfer of case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Unnao rape survivor has moved the Supreme Court, seeking transfer of a criminal case filed by the father of one of the accused in her sexual assault case from a trial court in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, on grounds of "counter judicial proceedings". An Unnao court has issued a non-bailable warrant against the victim on a complaint of cheating and forgery by the father of Shubham Singh, one of the accused being tried in the gang rape case in a Delhi court.

Three held for smuggling sloth bear

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Forest officials recently rescued a sloth bear from smugglers in West Bengal's Malda district, and three persons have been arrested. The six-year-old male bear was being used in Nepal as a dancing bear for street performances and was transported illegally to West Bengal.

The animal is being treated for severe wounds.

FBI seizes 'secret' documents from Trump

Records that could cause 'exceptionally grave' damage to U.S. interests recovered, say court papers

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The FBI recovered "top secret" and even more sensitive documents from former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, according to court papers released on Friday after a federal judge unsealed the warrant that authorised the sudden, unprecedented search this week.

A property receipt unsealed by the court shows FBI agents took 11 sets of classified records from the estate during a search on Monday.

The seized records include some marked not only top secret but also "sensitive compartmented information," a special category meant to protect the nation's most important secrets that if revealed publicly could cause "exceptionally grave" damage to U.S. interests. The court records did not provide specific details about information the documents might contain.

A file picture of former U.S. President Donald Trump. • AP

The warrant says federal agents were investigating potential violations of three different federal laws, including one that governs gathering, transmitting or losing defence information under the Espionage Act. The other statutes address the concealment, mutilation or removal of records and the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations.

Property receipt

The property receipt also shows federal agents collected other potential presidential records, including the order pardoning Mr. Trump's ally Roger Stone, a "leather-bound box of documents," and information about the "President of France." A binder of photos, a handwritten note, "miscellaneous secret documents" and "miscellaneous confidential documents" were also seized in the search.

Mr. Trump's attorney, Christina Bobb, who was present at Mar-a-Lago when the agents conducted the search, signed two property receipts.

All declassified: Trump

In a statement earlier on Friday, Mr. Trump claimed that the documents seized by agents were "all declassified," and argued that he would have turned them over if the Justice Department had asked.

While incumbent Presidents generally have the power to declassify information, that authority lapses as soon as they leave office and it was not clear if the documents in question have ever been declassified. And even an incumbent's powers to declassify may be limited regarding secrets dealing with nuclear weapons programmes, covert operations and operatives, and some data shared with allies.

Mr. Trump kept possession of the documents despite multiple requests from agencies, including the National Archives, to turn over presidential records in accordance with federal law.

The Mar-a-Lago search warrant served on Monday was part of an ongoing Justice Department probe into the discovery of classified White House records recovered from Mr. Trump's home earlier this year. The Archives had asked the department to investigate after saying 15 boxes of records it retrieved from the estate included classified records.

It remains unclear whether the Justice Department moved forward with the warrant simply as a means to retrieve the records or as part of a wider criminal investigation or attempt to prosecute the former President.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart, the same judge who signed off on the search warrant, unsealed the warrant and property receipt on Friday at the request of the Justice Department.

Taliban violently disperse rare women's protest in Kabul

About 40 women march, chanting 'bread, work & freedom'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Taliban fighters beat women protesters and fired into the air on Saturday as they violently dispersed a rare rally in the Afghan capital, days ahead of the first anniversary of the hardline Islamists' return to power.

Since seizing control on August 15 last year, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women during two decades of U.S. intervention in Afghanistan.

About 40 women – chanting "bread, work and freedom" – marched in front of the Education Ministry building in Kabul, before the fighters dispersed them by firing their guns into the air.

Some women protesters who took refuge in nearby shops were chased and beaten by Taliban fighters with their rifle butts.

Fighting for their rights: Afghan women raising slogans during a protest in Kabul on Saturday. • AFP

The demonstrators carried a banner which read "August 15 is a black day" as they demanded rights to work and political participation. "Justice, justice. We're fed up with ignorance," they chanted, many not wearing face veils.

"Unfortunately, the Taliban from the intelligence service came and fired in the air," said Zholia Parsi, one of the organisers of the march.

"They dispersed the girls, tore our banners and confiscated the mobile phones of many girls."

"If the Taliban want to silence this voice, it's not possible. We will protest from our homes," she said.

Some journalists covering the demonstration were also beaten up by the Taliban fighters.

China sending fighter jets to Thailand for joint exercises

U.S., Australia, Japan military drills under way in Indonesia

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK

The Chinese Air Force is sending fighter jets and bombers to Thailand for a joint exercise with the Thai military on Sunday.

The training will include air support, strikes on ground targets and small- and large-scale troop deployment, the Chinese Defence Ministry said in a statement.

China's expanding military activities in the Asia-Pacific region have alarmed the U.S. and its allies and form part of a growing strategic and economic competition that has inflamed tensions between the world's two largest economies.

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Thailand in June as part of an effort to strengthen what he called America's "unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships" in the region.

The Falcon Strike exercise will be held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos. Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries will also take part.

The training comes as the U.S. holds joint combat drills in Indonesia with Australia, Japan and Singapore in the largest iteration of the Super Garuda Shield exercises since they began in 2009.

It also follows Chinese military exercises around Taiwan after a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the self-ruled island.

Bangladesh tea workers stage protest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Nearly 1,50,000 workers at 232 Bangladeshi tea plantations went on strike on Saturday demanding 150% rise to their dollar-a-day wages, which researchers say are among the lowest in the world.

The minimum wage for them is 120 taka a day – about $1.25 at official rates. Unions have demanded an increase to 300 taka a day, citing high inflation. Plantation owners have offered an increase of 14 taka a day, saying they are facing tough times.

Praise, worry in Iran over Rushdie attack

'Satan on the path to hell', reads a headline in the conservative paper *Khorasan*

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iranians reacted with praise and worry on Saturday over the attack on novelist Salman Rushdie, the target of a decades-old fatwa by the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini calling for his death.

It remains unclear why Rushdie's attacker, identified by police as Hadi Matar of New Jersey, stabbed the author as he prepared to speak at an event on Friday in New York. Iran's government and its state-run media have assigned no motive to the assault.

Salman Rushdie

But in Tehran, some willing to speak to The Associated Press offered praise for an attack targeting a writer they believe tarnished the Islamic faith with his 1988 book *The Satanic Verses*. In the streets of Iran's capital, images of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini still peer down at passers-by.

"I don't know Salman Rushdie, but I am happy to hear that he was attacked since he insulted Islam," said Reza Amiri, a 27-year-old deliveryman. "This is the fate for anybody who insults sanctities."

Others, however, worried aloud that Iran could become even more cut off from the world as tensions remain high over its tattered nuclear deal.

"I feel those who did it are trying to isolate Iran," said Mahshid Barati, a 39-year-old geography teacher. "This will negatively affect relations with many – even Russia and China."

Khomeini, in poor health in the last year of his life after the grinding Iran-Iraq war decimated the country's economy, issued the fatwa on Rushdie in 1989.

The conservative newspaper *Khorasan* bore a large image of Rushdie on a stretcher, its headline blaring: "Satan on the path to hell."

But the 15th Khordad Foundation – which put the over $3 million bounty on Rushdie – remained quiet and declined to comment.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. Y/E. 29/2022-23/07
Dated: 10.08.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work:

Description of Work	Appx. Value
Provision of Niranthara Jyothi Power supply arrangements to LC gates No. 40, 50, 51 & 52 between Nanjangud Town-Chamarajanagar section.	Rs. 9,03,879.16/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs. of 01.09.2022

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Mysuru

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL AT BENGALURU

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013
And in the matter of Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013
And
In the matter of Scheme of Arrangement between
M/s Stumpp Schuele & Somappa Private Limited and M/s Stumpp Schuele & Somappa Engineering Services Private Limited
CP (CAA) No.30/BB/2022

Stumpp Schuele & Somappa Private Limited
No.4, Bommasandra
Industrial Area, Attibele
Hobli, Anekal Taluk
Bengaluru- 560 099
...Petitioner No. 1/ Transferor Company
And
Stumpp Schuele & Somappa Engineering Services Private Limited
No.4, Bommasandra
Industrial Area, Attibele
Hobli, Anekal Taluk
Bengaluru- 560 099
...Petitioner No. 2/ Transferee Company

NOTICE

The above C.P. (CAA) No.30/BB/2022 is filed under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on April 29, 2022. The petition is filed for seeking sanction of the Scheme of Arrangement between M/s Stumpp Schuele & Somappa Private Limited (Transferor Company) and M/s Stumpp Schuele & Somappa Engineering Services Private Limited (Transferee Company) which provides for the transfer and vesting of the auto-sector consultancy services of the Transferor Company, as a going concern, into the Transferee Company. The said petition is fixed for hearing before the Bengaluru Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal on September 1, 2022.

Any person, who is desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition, should send to the Petitioner Companies' Advocate, notice of his/her intention signed by him/her or his Advocate, with his/her name and address so as to reach the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench and the Petitioner Companies' Advocate, not later than two days before the date fixed for hearing of the petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or the copy of the affidavit, shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same, on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 14-08-2022

Perikal K. Arjun
Advocate for the Petitioner Companies
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co
Prestige Sterling Square, 2nd floor
Madras Bank Road, off Lavelle Road
Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 91-93412 10037

National Council of Science Museums
(Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
Ministry of Culture, Government of India
33, Block-GN, Sector-V,
Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700091

Advertisement No. 06 /2022

Applications are invited from experienced professionals in the field of popularization of science in Central Govt. / State Govt. / PSUs / Universities / Recognized Scientific Institutions & other Autonomous organizations and reputed private sector entities to be inducted through lateral entry to the grade of **Curator 'E' in NCSM on contract basis for a period of 05 years** in the Pay Matrix Level 13 (₹ 123100 - ₹ 215900) (Total present emolument of ₹ 2,07,839.00/- approx. in an A-1 city). The position carries usual allowances as admissible to Central Government employees of equivalent status.

For details, please log on to **www.ncsm.gov.in**. Completed applications in the prescribed format should reach to the **Secretary, National Council of Science Museums** latest by **05th September, 2022.**

Government of Karnataka
ಕ್ರಾಫರ್ಡ್ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಸಕಲೇಶಪುರ,
(ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ 150 ಹಾಸಿಗೆಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ)
CRAWFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL,
SAKALESHAPURA - 573 134 (150 Bed Sub-divisional Hospital)
email:crawfordhospital@gmail.com phone:08173-243098
ಸಂ.ಕ್ರಾ.ಸ.ಆ.ಸ/ಹೊಗು & ಸಾಗ-ಟ್ರೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ/86/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05/08/2022

"E" Procurement Tender Notification"

Re-Tender for 2022-23 are invited through "E" Procurement to Privide a total of 25 outsource(Group-D + Non-clinical) to this hospital with total of 150 Beds. Tender Registration can be submitted from from 17-08-2022. Deadline for receipt to tender registration is 5:00pm on 15-09-2022. More information will be available at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, Craford General Hospital, Sakaleshpura tq, Hassan Dist

ವಾರ್ತಾ/ಸ/ಹಿ/ಜಾಹೀರಾತು/406/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department.
SIRASI Division(U.K), Karnataka
Telephone: 08384- 223164 Fax: 08384- 224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/ 5054 MDR/ 2022-23/1185 Date: 10.08.2022

Invitation for Tenders (IFT) (Short Term)KW-4
e-Tender Notification

(1)The **Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi** invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021) (2)Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/ eportal/index.seam under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4)Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division.** (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents. **Name of work: Indent No. (1) 153197 (2) 153193**

(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **22.08.2022 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **23.08.2022 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **24.08.2022 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **26.08.2022 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/-Executive Engineer
State Highway Authority officer
Public work Department Division, Sirsi
DIPR/ADK/MCA/31502-23 dt. 12.08.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, our client is proposing to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner, Bubra Marketing Services Private Limited.

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of easement, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, *lis-pendens*, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance howsoever (**"Claim"**), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 12 (twelve) days from the date of publication, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of converted land totally measuring 10 guntas (10890 square feet), bearing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Khatha No 552/Survey Nos 80/1,80/2, ward No 86 Marthahalli, carved in Survey No 80/1 measuring 3 guntas and Survey No 80/2(portion) measuring 7 guntas, of Amani Bellandurukhane Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded on the-

East By : Remaining portion of land in Survey No 80/2;
West By : Land in Survey No 74/2;
North By : Road;
South By : Land in Survey No 80/3.

Dated this 14th day of August 2022

Pavithra Thammaiah
Counsel
Khaitan & Co
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1
Magrath Road, Bengaluru-560 025
T: +91 80 4339 7000
M: +91 98862 26057

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my clients **Ajay Kumar, Sambhu Prasad and Rahul Kumar Chhotu Prasad** all sons of Singasan Prasad intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from **Mrs Ashwini S.A w/o G.K. Narayanaswamy** (hereinafter Owner/seller). The Owner/seller represents and warrant that she is the absolute owner of the schedule property and that she has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Owner/seller further represents and warrants that she has not encumbered, the schedule property in any manner and apart from her no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my clients shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of building constructed on **site no.3**, Khata no.354/2 measuring site area 2400sqft, consists of basement measuring 2200sqft, Ground Floor 2200sqft, 1st Floor measuring 1000sqft, totally SBA measuring of 5400 sqft, situated at **Kalkere Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Tq**, now under BBMP limits, bounded on:

East by : Private Property
West by : 25 Feet Road
North by : Site No.2
South by : Site No.4

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere
Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 14-08-2022

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No.: E-53/2022-23 E-TENDERS Date : 10.08.2022

E-Tender are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which venders must have Class III Digital Signature and registrations on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence S.No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. **S.No.:- 1.** 05225179 (26/08/2022), OPERATOR PLATFORM ASSEMBLY, 01 SET, **S.No.:- 2.** 05225186 (26/08/2022), DIGIMATIC DEPTH MICROMETER, 02 NOS, **S.No.:- 3.** 05225181 (26/08/2022), DIGIMATIC TUBULAR INSIDE, 02 SET, **S.No.:- 4.** 05225173 (26/08/2022), REVOLVING BARREL CAULKING GUN, 450 NOS, **S.No.:- 5.** 05225142 (26/08/2022), AUTOMATIC LEVEL WITH ALUMINIUM, 04 NOS, **S.No.:- 6.** 05225143 (26/08/2022), TORCH MOUNTED FLASH BACK ARRESTOR, 32 NOS, **S.No.:- 7.** 05225187 (05/09/2022), OPERATOR PLATFORM ASSEMBLY, 01 SET, **S.No.:- 8.** 05225107A (05/09/2022), TWO TYPES OF INTERCHANGEABLE BOX END HEAD, 02 & 04 NOS, **S.No.:- 9.** 10221117, (30/08/22), Gear Planetary Ring PL No. 16141192, 400 Nos., **S.No.:- 10.** 10222369, (30/08/22), Scavenging Lube Oil Pump Assembly, 82 Nos., **S.No.:- 11.** 10222115, (31/08/22), Cover Air Box PL No. 16141271, 16 Nos., **S.No.:- 12.** 10221080A, (02/09/22), Spacer Inner PL No. 16080956, 310 Nos., **S.No.:- 13.** 09221119A, (30/08/2022), Circuit Module - PSM 320, to PL No. 18120052, 17 Nos., **S.No.:- 14.** (.........) 06221230, (30/08/2022), TAPPERED ROLLER BEARING ASSEMBALY (GWE) TIMKEN BEARING TYPE M249747-M249710 as per Drg. No. EL/PT/0455 as per Specn. RDSO SPEC. NO. MP.0.2402.17 (REV.-01) MAY 2012, DRG. NO. EL/PT/0455 THIS IS A SAFETY ITEM, PL. No. 12491299, **12 Nos., S.No.:- 15.** 03221044 (06.09.22), Pivot for Bogie, P L NO. 29140134, 164 Nos., **S.No.:- 16.** 01221046C, 29-08-2022, RING CARRIER, 16121508, 712, NOS **CORRIGENDUM Notice:- S.No.:-17. Bid Inv. No.:-** IREPS-AT/E47/2022-23, Dt.19.07.22, **Tender No.:-** 03221096, **Clause:-** Due Date, **Existing:-** 08.08.2022, **Revised Due Date:-** 12.08.2022, **S.No.:- 18, Tender No.:-** 05215251C, **Bid Inv. No.:-** 45, **Existing due date:-** 05.08.2022, **Revised due date:-** 17.08.2022 **NOTE:** All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders. The details of above tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in**.

PRO/BLW/S-55 PCMM

/banaraslocowork "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, SRI. B. JAYASINGH, s/o. Late. Balaji Singh, Aged about 86 years, Residing at Matyalamma Temple Street, Lakkur, Kolar – 563160 (Aadhar No. 4041 3932 2946) is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 10 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy. No. 285/1**, measuring to an extent of **1 Acre 35.08 Guntas (including the portion of the land measuring 635 Sq.Meters acquired for road purpose by the National Highway Authority)**, situated at Lakkur Village & Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on the:-
East by : Land bearing Sy. No. 285/2, 285/3 & 285/4; **West by :** Land bearing Sy. No. 273;
North by : Land bearing Sy. No. 285/5;
South by : Land bearing Sy. No. 284;
Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy. No. 285/2**, measuring to an extent of **1 Acre 27 Guntas (including the portion of the land measuring 1818 Sq.Meters acquired for road purpose by the National Highway Authority)**, situated at Lakkur Village & Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on the:-
East by: Land bearing Sy. No. 286;
West by: Land bearing Sy. No. 285/1;
North by: Land bearing Sy. No. 285/6;
South by: Land bearing Sy. No. 285/3;
Dated this 14th day of August 2022 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS, ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS, No. 428, First Floor, 25 th Cross, 24 th Main HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore – 560 102 Phone: 080-65555914 Mobile: 9845688874; 9164150690

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that, our clients have proposed to enter into JDA in respect of schedule property with its present owners **Sri.A.S.Rajakumar, Mrs.Thirikulanayagi Karthik Nandakumar, Mrs.Bindhukumari Sathish, Sri.Manikandan V., Smt.Savithri, Smt.Kamini and Ms.Priya.** Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank objecting for the proposed JDA or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections /claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **2 WEEKS** from this day of publication and any objection/claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed with JDA in respect of the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

-:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:-

All that piece and parcel of an immovable property bearing Western portion of old No.162, New No.162A, **Narayana Pille Street, 3A Division, Civil station, Bangalore** and bounded on the : **East by :** Second Item premises and Narayana Pille street, **West by :** Gayaki Ginamani Vidyasanga Property, **North by:** Presently Nagarathna Pille T.N Property, **South by :** Kunchiligara Linganna Vacant Land, In between the Mangalore Tiles Roofed Premises and Well, measuring East by 44½ Feet, West by 47½ Feet, North by 66½ feet, South by 66½ Feet with attached bathroom, toilet measuring East by 18½ feet, West by 18½ feet, North by 10 feet, South by 10 Feet. The above Narayanapille Street Municipal Door old No.162, new No.162A out of which remaining East by 26½ feet, West by 25¼ feet, North by 71½ feet, South by : 71½ feet.

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.
Mob: 98441 55041, 080-22223949

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public are hereby informed that my clients 1) **MR.ANANDAKUMAR KANAGAN**, S/o Sri.Kanagan, R/at No.4/394, Dhandukaranpatti, Palayampathur, Palayam, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu-636 807, Aadhaar No.3968 9180 8635, 2) **Mr.V.RAMANJANEYA REDDY**, S/o Sri.V.V.Nagi Reddy, Aadhaar No.2629 6272 9142, 3) **SMT.REVATHI.B**, W/o Sri.V.Ramanjaneya Reddy, Aadhaar No.3597 7272 2200, R/at Flat No.109, B Block, MBR Steeple Apartment, Off Begur Road, Opp: Royal Meridian Society, Begur, Bangalore-560 068 and 4) **SRI.MANJUNATH.S**, S/o Sri.Sanna Javaraiah, R/ at No.1194, 1st Block, BTM Layout, 4th Stage, Bangalore-560 076, Aadhaar No.3308 6147 6967, are intend to Purchase the schedule property from its owners **SRI.VINAY SARDA**, S/o Sri.Satyanarayan Sarda, **SMT. ALKA SARDA**, W/o Sri.Vinay Sarda, both are R/at "Sri Rani Shrud" No.26, N.S.Iyengar Stree, Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560 020.

The general public are hereby notified that in case if any person/s asserting any legitimate right, objection/s or claim over the schedule property or any part thereof, they may forward such right/s or objection/s or claim/s along with the relevant documentary proof, to the undersigned with **7 days** from hereof. All such claims/objections received after **7 days** from the date of notification shall not be considered.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

Item No.1

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **Site No.30**, old Nos.41/1,41(2&41/3, Old Katha No.138/1, Bommanahalli CMC Old Khatha No.422, New Khatha No.205, Property No.30/422, situated at **Nyanappanahalli village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk**, Earlier Bommanahalli CMC Limits., now comes under within the Limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 48 Feet, in all measuring **1920 Square Feet** and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.36, West by : Road, North by : Road, South by : Site No.31

Item No.2

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.36**, old Nos.41/1,41/2&41/3, Old Katha No.138/1, Bommanahalli CMC Old Khatha No.422, New Khatha No.204, Property No.33/422, situated at **Nyanappanahalli village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk**, Earlier Bommanahalli CMC Limits., now comes under within the Limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 45+48/2 Feet, in all measuring **1820 Square Feet** and bounded on:

East by : Road, West by : Site No.30, North by : Road, South by : Site No.37

M.R.REVANNA, Advocate
No.264, 1st Floor, Behind Ganesh Temple
Begur Road, Bommanahalli
Bangalore-560068. Ph :99806 28324

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Port & Fisheries Division, Udupi-576103.
No. EE/P&F/DN/UDUPI /AE /Notification 12/2022-23 Date 04.08.2022
Tel No 0820 -2532961 Fax No 0820-2532961 Email : pfdudupi@gmail.com

Invitation for Tenders (IFT) Two cover system
Tender Notification

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, tender is invited in E-procurement to execute below mentioned work. To participate in E –Procurement and for more information may be obtained in **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website .No separate paper notification will be issued.

Sl. No	Name of work and Indent Number	Estimate Amount	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD Amount)	Last date for quarries	Date of receipt of Tender
1	Development of Coastal Berth at Gangolli in Udupi District	₹ 95,88,00,000.00	₹ 95.88 lakhs (₹ 1.00 lakh e-payment + ₹ 94.88 lakhs as mentioned in bid document)	08-09-2022 at 16.00 hours	12.09.2022 at 17.00 hours
2	Construction of Dedicated Lakshadweep jetty for cargo and cruise terminal at old Mangalore Port	₹ 65,00,00,000.00	₹ 65.00 lakhs (₹ 1.00 lakh e-payment+ ₹ 64.00 lakhs as mentioned in bid document	08-09-2022 at 16.00 hours	12.09.2022 at 17.00 hours
3	Development of Water ways in Gurupur (NW-43) in Mangalore Taluk	₹ 29,62,00,000.00	₹ 29.62 lakhs (₹1.00 lakh e- payment + ₹ 28.62 lakh as mentioned in bid document)	08-09-2022 at 16.00 hours	12.09.2022 at 17.00 hours

Sd/-, Executive Engineer
Port & Fisheries Division, Udupi

SNAPSHOTS

Urban settlements
The southwest corner of the Amazon Basin was once the site of complex urban settlements built by ancient civilisations. Researchers used a laser remote-sensing technology called lidar to map land inhabited by the Casarabe culture, which existed around AD500 to 1400, in what is now known as Bolivia.

Origin of SARS-CoV-2
Two studies published recently traced the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak to a huge market in Wuhan, China that sold live animals. Now a preprint (which is yet to be peer-reviewed) indicates that the virus spilt over from animals — possibly those sold at the market in Wuhan — into humans at least twice in November or December 2019.

Methane emissions
A new study has found that landfills make substantial contributions to greenhouse gas emissions in four major cities of the world. Emissions from Buenos Aires in Argentina, Delhi and Mumbai in India, and Lahore in Pakistan were 1.6 to 2.7 times larger than what was reported in commonly used emission inventories.

Cushioning effect
A new modelling study suggests sauropod dinosaurs required soft tissue pads on the undersides of their feet to support their enormous weight. The soft tissue pads would have substantially reduced foot bone stresses in sauropods. The study also revealed that the soft pads may have been one of the key adaptations that enabled dinosaurs to evolve.

Walking a tightrope in messaging transmission routes

Public health communication about different routes of transmission of monkeypox virus is critical, especially as demographics can change

R. PRASAD

Researchers at the National Institute of Virology, Pune, had recently posted the case report of the first two imported monkeypox cases that were detected in Kerala. But the people who tested positive for monkeypox virus had returned from the United Arab Emirates just days before they were detected with monkeypox infection. In a preprint (which is yet to be peer-reviewed), the researchers have detailed the clinical presentation of the infection in these people, and based on genome sequencing data have designated them as belonging to the A.2 clade.

The likely mode for transmission of monkeypox virus (MPXV) in both cases has not been mentioned in the preprint. In the first case – a 35-year-old male – the researchers say multiple vesicular rashes were seen in the "oral cavity and lips followed by a single lesion on the genital organ". The person had revealed similar lesions in people whom he had come in contact with a week before the onset of symptoms but denied any sexual contact.

In the second case, genital swelling was seen on July 8, 2022, and two days later, multiple vesicular rashes developed on the genital organ and on both hands; lesions were seen in a few other parts of the body couple of days later. This person, too, had denied any sexual or physical contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed monkeypox infection.

As per the global update by WHO, as of August 10, 98.7% of 18,940 people with confirmed infection were men. Among cases with known data on sexual orientation, 97.2% (8,224 of 8,462) identified as men who have sex with men (MSM). Of the 5,473 cases where the route of transmission was reported, 91.5% was through a sexual encounter. This would mean that in about 8.5% of cases the route of transmission was not sexual.

Route of infection

While the first two people in India who tested positive for the monkeypox virus had developed initial symptoms (rashes/lesions), including in the genital area, even before travelling from the United Arab Emirates to Kerala, both had denied sexual contact with anyone with confirmed or suspected infection. While other routes of transmission cannot be ruled out in both cases, it is pertinent to note that lesions were first seen in the genital and/or oral areas.

The reasons for denying the sexual route of transmission could be due to fear of stigma and discrimination.

"There is both a legal and social issue for denying sexual route of transmission," says Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior scientist at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB). "Homosexuality is a crime in UAE and people can get prosecuted. So, expatriates who develop lesions fly back to their respective countries."

Since genome sequence data are posted along with the date and place, it is possible to identify the infected people and trace them, especially since only two sequences have been posted from India. "So even if they had declared the route of transmission as sexual, it is important not to reveal it in the study," says Dr. Scaria.

Multiple routes of spread

As per WHO, majority of cases are among men who have sex with men, and sexual encounter is the route of transmission in 91.5% of cases with the known routes of spread. Both legal and social acceptance of men who have sex with men is very high in the U.S. and many countries in South America and Europe. Despite homosexuality being decriminalised in India, the acceptance is not the same in India, the reason why some people may not disclose the sexual route of transmission of monkeypox virus.

"That is why public health communication about the different routes of transmission is critical. Also, the demographics could change as we go ahead. The communication from India's health ministry has been quite straight on this. It clearly states that anyone can get infected," says Dr. Scaria.

Globally, the virus has already spread beyond the MSM networks. Among the people for whom the route of transmission is known, 8.5% of cases are outside the MSM networks. So even though the majority of cases are being reported in men who have sex with men, anyone who comes in direct contact with an infected person or even with towels and bedsheets used by an infected person can get infected.

"While the majority of cases are in the MSM community globally, anyone can get infected through other routes. All efforts and attempts should be directed at ensuring that people who have been infected do not face any stigma and discrimination. Else, we will end up driving monkeypox spread under the radar," says Dr. Anant Bhan, a researcher in global health, bioethics and health policy.

Nine cases

As of August 11, 184 suspected cases have been tested and nine monkeypox cases have been detected in India. All the five cases detected in Kerala are imported, while all four people detected in Delhi have no international travel history and the index case has not been identified for any of the four.

The importance of timely testing and isolation of cases to limit virus spread cannot be overemphasised. Equally, sequencing the genomes and posting the data on global databases is imperative. NIV Pune has so far shared only two genome sequences on GISAID. Besides NIV Pune, 15 Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) of ICMR have been testing for the virus. All 15 VRDL labs are required to send the positive samples to NIV for confirmation.

Currently, NIV holds all the positive samples only it can sequence the genomes and share them. A large number of SARS-CoV-2 genomes were sequenced and shared nationally and in global databases only when many government labs outside the ICMR were allowed to both test and sequence the genomes.

As of August 11, over 33,000 monkeypox cases have been reported globally. The U.S., with nearly 10,400 cases, accounts for one-third of the total cases, and 41 countries in Europe reported over 17,500 cases.

Importance of communicating different routes of transmission

Majority of monkeypox virus spread globally is among men who have sex with men. But the virus has spread to people, including children, outside the MSM networks

1. The first two people detected in India had developed initial symptoms (including in the genital area) even before travelling from the United Arab Emirates to India. Both had denied sexual contact with any infected people
2. The lesions were first seen in the genital and/or oral areas. The reasons for denying sexual route of transmission could be due to fear of stigma and discrimination
3. Overwhelming majority of cases globally are seen in men who have sex with men, and sexual encounter is the route of transmission in 91.5% of cases with known route of spread

Reluctance: Only two genome sequences have been posted on GISAID database from India, though nine cases have been detected so far.

4. Among the people for whom the route of transmission is known, 8.5% of cases are outside the MSM networks
5. Since genome sequences data are posted along with the date and place, it is possible to identify the infected people, especially since only two sequences have been posted from India
6. In India, nine cases have been detected so far. Five cases have been detected in Kerala and four in Delhi
7. All the five detected in Kerala are imported cases, while all the four cases detected in Delhi have no international travel history. The index case has not been identified for any of the four

How lactose tolerance in humans became widespread

People who did not carry a copy of the lactase persistence gene variant might have died before reaching their reproductive years

JACOB KOSHY

Milk has often been branded as a superfood as it is rich in most of the nutrients necessary for health. However, how milk came to be an integral part of the human diet has been a conundrum to scientists because most of the world can't digest the product.

Studies on the global prevalence of this mutation suggest that 65% of humanity is lactose-intolerant, meaning they lack the gene to break down lactose into adulthood. Beyond the age of five, lactose, a sugar present in milk, cannot be naturally broken down in the stomach and this remains in the gut causing flatulence, acidity and diarrhoea.

India is among the largest producers of milk and, by country, the largest consumer and it stands to reason most Indians possess it. However, multiple studies have shown that only around 18-25% have it.

Milk drinking, the story goes, hasn't been very popular in the roughly 3,00,000-year history of humanity. But in the last 5,000 years, a genetic mutation enabled European pastoralists to produce lactase – an enzyme that breaks down lactose into a digestible form – well into adulthood, a trait called lactose persistence.

Genetic variant

Moreover, the genetic variant present in Indians is almost identical to that found in Europeans, meaning that it likely spread into India from migrant European populations. Thus, the standard story goes that something amplified the popularity of the genetic variant in Europeans and consequently in pockets of other continents.

Because evolution favours traits that confer benefits and eliminates those that don't, scientists have long sought to explain why the mutated lactose gene became popular. Was it because European pastoralists, who herded cows, continued to drink milk despite the obvious discomfort because it was otherwise a viable source of nutrition?

Low risk: Healthy people without lactase persistence may experience discomfort when consuming milk. • GETTY IMAGES

A recent study in the journal *Nature* reports a multipronged analysis that suggests drinking milk was actually harmful in those who lacked the gene-variant but only in periods of famine and adverse environmental conditions. Thus, the gene flourished because it likely killed the Europeans who lacked it.

Professor Richard Evershed, the study's lead author from the University of Bristol's School of Chemistry, assembled a unique database of nearly 7,000 organic animal-fat residues from 13,181 fragments of pottery from 554 archaeological sites to find out where and when people were consuming milk. His findings showed milk was used extensively in European prehistory, dating from the earliest farming nearly 9,000 years ago, but increased and decreased in different regions at different times.

'No connection'

Another team, led by Professor Mark Thomas, of the University College London, developed a statistical model and applied it to a database that showed the presence or absence of the lactase persistence genetic variant, using published ancient DNA sequences from more than 1,700 prehistoric European and Asian individuals. They found no relationship challenging the long-held view that the extent of milk use drove lactase persistence evolution.

An analysis of the UK Biobank data, comprising genetic and medical data for more than 3,00,000 living English, found only minimal differences in milk drinking behaviour between genetically lactase persistent and non-persistent people. Also, the large majority of people who were genetically lactase non-persistent experienced no short or long-term negative health effects when they consume milk.

"If you are healthy and lactase non-persistent, and you drink lots of milk, you may experience some discomfort, but you are not going to die of it. However, if you are severely malnourished and have diarrhoea, then you've got life-threatening problems. When their crops failed, prehistoric people would have been more likely to consume unfermented high-lactose milk – exactly when they shouldn't," he said in a statement.

Therefore, the authors argue that as populations and settlement sizes grew, human health would have been increasingly impacted by poor sanitation and increasing diarrheal diseases, especially those of animal origin. Consuming milk under these conditions would have been harmful to those who lacked the digestive gene.

"This situation would have been further exacerbated under famine conditions when disease and malnutrition rates are increased. This would lead to individuals who did not carry a copy of the lactase persistence gene variant being more likely to die before or during their reproductive years, which would push the population prevalence of lactase persistence up," the authors note.

HIV drugs shortage is a challenge to ending AIDS in India

Some people living with HIV have had their regimen changed due to the unavailability of certain ARVs

LOON GANGTE
LEENA MENGHANEY

In June, PLHIV (People Living with HIV) networks across the country started witnessing an acute shortage of certain Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs in Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) centres. Among them were pediatric formulations and dolutegravir, the backbone of HIV treatment.

In the summer heat, PLHIV have been protesting peacefully for the past 23 days continuously on the premises of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). The *dharna* is calling attention to the need for emergency procurement of ARVs and the unintended consequences of a weak and ineffective supply chain.

Suppressing virus

People living with HIV need access to treatment with a combination of drugs known as antiretroviral therapy to suppress the virus, preserve their health, and prevent transmission of the virus to an HIV-negative partner. Staying on anti-retroviral therapy continuously is crucial to keep the virus suppressed.

But the virus can mutate into a resistant form if treatment delivery is poor or patchy. As treatment activists, we have seen firsthand when antiretroviral therapy treatment is interrupted, people living with HIV develop resistance to their regimen and become vulnerable to life-threatening bacterial and fungal infections – the primary causes of hospitalisation and AIDS-related deaths in the community.

Governments such as the Indian government have made considerable advances in providing access to testing and antiretroviral therapy (ART) for people living with HIV. While there has been a reduction in AIDS-related deaths since 2004, progress has stalled in recent years, highlighting the need to address health system challenges such as disruptions in the medicine supply chain to end AIDS.

The disruptions in the life-saving HIV medicine supply chain are not new. What drives these widespread reoccurring shortages in the last decade affecting many States is the failure of the pooled procurement mechanism. The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal agency responsible for overlooking and coordinating activities of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) along with the Central Medical Services Society, which is responsible for centralised tendering and pooled procurement of different HIV products, including Antiretroviral drugs.

Peaceful protest: The dharna in the NACO office seeks to get government attention on the timely tendering and procurement of HIV medicines. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The tender for pooled procurement of life-saving antiretroviral medicines has faced bureaucratic delays in 2014, 2017, and now again in 2022.

Lack of treatment

A few days ago, NACO, in its public communication, claimed that 95% of PLHIVs have not faced any shortages. But by its own admission, the current shortages affect 5% of 14.5 lakh people. People living with HIV report that ART centres are struggling to keep them on treatment.

PLHIVs receive a minimum "one month's dose" from ART centres. Recently, they have had to make many trips in a month to get their pills, creating a chilling effect on adherence as poorer patients do not have the resources to travel frequently. Some have had their regimen changed due to the unavailability of certain ARVs and are worried if these changes are based on the World Health Organization's guidelines and compromise their future treatment options.

Some PLHIVs have been asked to take multiple doses of pediatric formulations instead of adult formulations. As a result, the pill burden increases, and they worry that they may deprive a child living with HIV of their doses in the near future. And when pediatric doses are not available, adult pills are broken or crushed, resulting in uneven dosing and an unpleasant taste that children do not like to take, making adherence challenging for caregivers.

The peaceful dharna in the NACO office seeks to get government attention on the timely tendering and procurement of HIV medicines and to hold accountable the health ministry's procurement agency, the Central Medical Services Society, responsible for ARVs tenders to ensure an uninterrupted supply of life-saving treatment.

Shortages of health products in the supply chain of health programmes are not India's problem alone and are commonly experienced in low- and middle-income settings. However, India has IT-enabled and community monitoring tools at its disposal.

Necessary actions

What is urgently needed is the political will from the Ministry of Health to take necessary measures to ensure that drug shortages, as happened over the last decade, are not experienced by its programmes, such as HIV and TB, in the future.

If ignored, the consequences impact the right to health and drive drug resistance, a significant public health challenge for the country.

(Loon Gangte is an HIV activist with the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition. Leena Menghaney is a lawyer who works on medicines, law and policy.)

Question Corner

Fruit fly species

What is the largest known bacteria-to-animal transfer of gene?

A fruit fly genome is not just made up of fruit fly DNA – at least for one fruit fly species. New research (*Current Biology*) shows that one fruit fly species contains whole genomes of a kind of bacteria, making this finding the largest bacteria-to-animal transfer of genetic material ever discovered.

The researchers used genetic long-read sequencing technology to show how genes from the bacteria *Wolbachia* incorporated themselves into the fly genome up to 8,000 years ago. The researchers say their findings show that unlike Darwin's finches or Mendel's peas, genetic variation isn't always small, incremental, and predictable.

Scientist Barbara McClintock first identified "jumping genes" in the 1940s like those that can move around within or transfer into other species' genomes.

To determine if the bacteria genes were functional and not just DNA fossils, the researchers sequenced the RNA from fruit flies specifically looking for copies of RNA that were created from templates of the inserted bacterial DNA. They showed the bacteria genes were encoded into RNA and were edited and rearranged into newly modified sequences.

An analysis of these unique sequences revealed that the bacteria DNA integrated into the fruit fly genome in the last 8,000 years, exclusively within chromosome 4, expanding the chromosome size by making up about 20% of chromosome 4. Bacterial genome integration supports a DNA-based rather than an RNA-based mechanism of integration.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Digital lending

Why has the RBI come out with a framework to regulate the e-space?

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On August 10, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instituted a framework for regulating the digital lending landscape in the country. It pointed to concerns such as unbridled engagement of third parties, mis-selling, breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates, and unethical recovery practices bothering consumer confidence and said that they had to be mitigated. The latest set of regulations are based on recommendations received from its Working Group on 'Digital Lending including lending through online platforms and mobile apps' (WGDL) which was constituted last January.

What is the digital lending landscape like?

■ Digital lending utilises automated technologies and algorithms for decision making, customer acquisition, disbursements and recovery. Not only does it lower costs but also ensures speedy disbursal.

Lending Service Providers (LSPs) act in partnership with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) who disburse credit (or a line of credit) to the customer using the former's platform, making it a multi-sided platform. In order to cement their presence in a space with multiple peers, LSPs often resort to reckless lending practices by endowing credit beyond a borrower's repayment capacity. The risk is mitigated by spreading it to all users by charging higher interest rates.

The absence of standardised disclosure and regulatory norms made it cumbersome to assess a participant's operational legitimacy. Between January and the end of February last year, there were about 1,100 lending apps available for Indian android users of which about 600 were illegal. They were either unregulated by the RBI or had NBFC partners with an asset size of less than ₹1,000 crore.

The space is largely dominated by NBFCs. Its customers particularly include small borrowers without a documented credit history and thus, not served by traditional financial institutions. Their product mix primarily imbibe on short-term loans, especially those which have shorter tenures of less than 30 days.

What are the new regulations?

■ The central premise is transparency. Lending must be carried out by entities that are either regulated by the RBI or possess permission to operate under a relevant law. Considering the large-scale outsourcing in the industry, this would also help address regulatory arbitrage.

According to the new regulations, all data collected by the apps should be 'need-based' and must be with prior and explicit consent of the borrower. Users can also revoke previously-granted consent

The RBI has mandated that all loan disbursals and repayments are to be executed directly between the bank accounts of the borrower and the entity, eliminating the involvement of LSP's nodal pass-through account.

Henceforth, before executing the contract, lenders would have to inform the borrower in a standardised format about all fees, charges as well as the annual percentage rate (APR). The latter refers to the annual rate that is charged for borrowing a loan and is inclusive of processing fees, penalties and all other charges associated with it. This would also help borrowers make better comparisons with industry peers. Further, LSPs cannot raise the credit limit of their customers without prior consent.

Also, to address the need for a dedicated resolution framework, entities would have to appoint a grievance redressal officer. The ecosystem would also fall under the purview of the RBI's Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) should the complaint not be resolved within 30 days of receipt.

Will data also have to be regulated?

■ Yes, all data collected by the apps should be "need-based" and must be with prior and explicit consent of the borrower. Users can also revoke previously granted consent. The information to be collected must be stated in the privacy policy during enrolment. Considering the multi-sided nature of the business, the RBI has put forth that user consent would be mandatory for sharing any personal information with a third-party. This regulation would also address concerns emanating from TechFin (companies that are primarily tech-based service providers, say e-commerce, and also offer financial services). They are known to leverage their existing user data from non-financial business to offer more suitable financial services, which may involve third parties and vice-versa.

What is the outlook for the industry?

■ The share of digital lending may be small at present, but given their scalability they may soon become significant players. Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer at CRISIL, Krishnan Sitaraman, told *The Hindu*, "We will have to see what kind of changes the digital lenders make to their operating models in light of the new regulations, how it impacts the fees they charge, the speed of their disbursements or how they continue to provide seamless experience to their customers." On the potential challenges from rising inflation, interest rates and their impact on credit growth in general, he said, "With the economic activity reviving at a decent pace post pandemic and our expectations of a GDP growth of 7.3% this fiscal, we expect demand for loans across the credit ecosystem to be higher this fiscal despite higher inflation and interest rates."

Have coastal ecosystem norms been violated?

What has the CAG reported in an audit of the conservation process being followed by Centre and States?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: This week, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India tabled a report in Parliament on whether steps taken by the Union Environment Ministry to conserve India's coastal ecosystems have been successful. The CAG frequently undertakes 'performance audits' of government programmes and ministries. This latest report contains the observations from an audit of 'Conservation of Coastal Ecosystems from 2015-20.'

Eroding shores: The CAG has a constitutional mandate to investigate publicly funded programmes. • PAUL NORONHA

What are the Centre's obligations on conserving the coastline?

■ The government has issued notifications under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, to regulate activities along India's coasts particularly regarding construction. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZ) 2019, implemented by the Ministry, classifies the coastal area into different zones to manage infrastructure activities and regulate them. The three institutions responsible for the implementation of the CRZ are the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) at the Centre, the State/Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authorities (SCZMAs/UTCZMAs) in every coastal State and Union Territory and the District Level Committees (DLCs) in every district that has a coastal stretch and where the CRZ notification is applicable. These bodies examine if CRZ clearances granted by the government are as per procedure, if project developers once given the go-ahead are complying with conditions, and if the project development objectives under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme (ICZMP) are successful. They also evaluate the measures taken up by the government towards achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goals, a set of United Nations-prescribed targets for countries towards eradicating poverty and becoming sustainable societies.

Why did the CAG undertake this audit?

■ The CAG has a constitutional mandate to investigate and report on publicly funded programmes. The CAG conducted "pre-audit studies" and found that there were large-scale CRZ violations in the coastal stretches. Incidences of illegal construction activities (reducing coastal space) and effluent discharges from local bodies, industries and aquaculture farms had been reported by the media and this prompted it to undertake a detailed investigation.

What did the audit find?

■ The audit pointed out various categories of violations. For one, the Environment Ministry hadn't notified NCZMA as a permanent body and it was being reconstituted every few years. In the absence of defined membership, it was functioning as an ad-hoc body. There were instances of the Expert Appraisal Committees – a committee of scientific experts and senior bureaucrats who evaluate the feasibility of an infrastructure project and its environmental consequences – not being present during project deliberations. There were also instances of the members of the EAC being fewer than half of the total strength during the deliberations.

The SCZMA had not been reconstituted in Karnataka and there was delayed reconstitution in the States of Goa, Odisha and West Bengal. The DLCs of Tamil Nadu lacked participation from local traditional communities. In Andhra Pradesh, DLCs were not even established.

There were instances of projects being approved despite inadequacies in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports. These included non-accredited consultants preparing the EIA, using outdated data, not evaluating environmental impacts of the project, not appraising the disasters which the project area was prone to and so forth.

What problems did the CAG find in the States?

■ Tamil Nadu didn't have a strategy in place to conserve the Gulf of Mannar Islands. In Goa, there was no system for monitoring coral reefs and no management plans to conserve turtle nesting sites. In Gujarat, instruments procured to study the physiochemical parameters of soil and water of the inertial area of the Gulf of Kutch weren't used. Sea patrolling in Gahirmatha Sanctuary, in Kendrapara, Odisha did not happen.

A research laboratory at Dangmal, Kendrapara District, Odisha constructed in 2016 has not yet been made functional. There was no website to disseminate the information related to the NCZMA , the CAG found, which is a clear violation of the mandated requirements of the Authority.

What lies ahead?

■ These reports are placed before the Standing Committees of Parliament, which select those findings and recommendations that they judge to be the most critical to public interest and arrange hearings on them. In this case, the Environment Ministry is expected to explain omissions pointed out by the CAG and make amends.

Why will airlines have to share PNR data?

What are the pros and cons of Customs wanting information on international travellers? How will the process work?

JAGRITI CHANDRA

The story so far: The Passenger Name Record Information Regulations, 2022, notified by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) under the Ministry of Finance, on August 8, requires airlines to mandatorily provide details of all international passengers on flights arriving into and departing from India to the Customs department. This is for preventing and prosecuting offences under the Customs Act, 1962 relating to smuggling of narcotics, gold, arms & ammunition that impact national security.

What is the process?

■ Airlines will have to transfer the "passenger name record (PNR) information" from their reservation system to the database of the Customs department. This includes details such as PNR, date of reservation, date of travel, credit card number, seat information as well as changes to the PNR. The CBIC will set up a database, the National Customs Targeting Centre-Passenger, to collect passenger information for "risk analysis". Such data can also be sought by other law enforcement agencies or government departments of India or any other country. The information will have to be shared at least 24 hours before departure and failure to comply will invite a penalty of ₹25,000 to ₹50,000 for every act of non-compliance.

How has it been received by airlines?

■ The regulations come five years after the Finance Bill, 2017 proposed amending the Customs Act, 1962 to allow exchange of passenger data. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), a trade association representing 290 airlines globally, says it "welcomes the notifying of the PNR regulations by the CBIC, thereby establishing a proper legal framework for the implementation of the PNR data program for India." It adds that this should now "bring an end to the non-standard passenger data requests from the airlines, by multiple agencies at various airports/stations." Airlines say the government must hold consultations, frame detailed guidelines and provide a feasible timeline for implementation. They also say that since they only pass on the information submitted by passengers, if data fields are missing or if details provided are fake, they should not be penalised.

Travel surveillance: Globally, Customs is the lead agency for collecting PNR-related information. • FILE PHOTO

How were Indian agencies collecting passenger information earlier?

■ Earlier, the Bureau of Immigration collected passenger details under the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) following an amendment in 2008 by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Foreigners Act, 1946. This allowed collection of data pertaining to foreigners, but not Indian citizens traveling in and out of the country. The APIS is contained in the Departure Control System of an airline and captures data when passengers check-in at airports and transfers the details to the destination country 15 minutes before flight departure.

But PNR information is captured by the airline's reservation system from the time a passenger buys a ticket and offers richer data for risk management such as whether a passenger is travelling alone, or whether s/he paid in cash and if there were changes in a passenger's itinerary. These can be shared 24 to 48 hours before departure allowing intelligence agencies enough time to carry out risk analysis.

Industry experts say globally Customs is the lead agency for collecting PNR-related information, and is better suited than immigration agencies because of the organised nature of crimes and terrorist activities.

What happens to the privacy of passengers?

■ The CBIC says the format for data exchange between airlines and the Customs systems is a standard electronic message format endorsed jointly by the World Customs Organisation (WCO), International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the IATA. Such data will be retained for a maximum period of five years after which it will be disposed of by de-personalisation or anonymisation but can be "re-personalised and unmasked when used in connection with an identifiable case, threat or risk for the specified purposes," says the CBIC. "Collecting data on everyone to then do an undetermined risk analysis, rather than selecting a few passengers is problematic. De-anonymising data is a big area of concern on two grounds – it raises questions about the type of anonymisation which can be easily reversed; secondly, there needs to be a high barrier for permitting de-anonymisation and has to be done only on very serious grounds. Moreover, all of this is happening when there is no line of sight on a data protection law and what happens to passengers if the data is breached," says Prateek Waghre, Policy Director, Internet Freedom Foundation. The Centre on August 3 withdrew the Personal Data Protection Bill, three years after it was tabled in the Lok Sabha in December 2019.

What is the threat from zoonotic diseases?

Is there a standard procedure on checks and genome sequencing for pathogens that pass from animals to humans?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: A new zoonotic virus that has evolved to infect humans was identified in China in August. On August 4, the *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)* described the virus called Langya (LayV), reported in patients in Eastern China.

What is the nature of Langya?

■ In a letter published in *NEJM*, a team of researchers from China and Singapore led by Xiao-Ai Zhang, Hao Li, et al say: "In our study, a newly identified henipavirus of probable animal origin was associated with febrile illness, a finding that warrants further investigation to better understand associated human illness."

The pathogen belongs to the henipavirus family, closely associated with Nipah and Hendra viruses, and was noticed to cause fever, and respiratory symptoms among 35 people in China since 2018. It was discovered during routine sentinel surveillance of patients who had fever and reported a recent history of exposure to animals in eastern China. It was identified as a phylogenetically distinct henipavirus, indicating its evolution, after being identified in a throat swab sample from a patient. The virus was named after the town this patient lived in – Langya in the Shandong province in China.

Subsequent investigations identified 35 patients with acute LayV infection in the Shandong and Henan provinces of China, the communique explains. In all except nine patients, LayV was the only pathogen isolated, indicating no other infection was present that could have caused the symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

■ The symptoms were fever, fatigue, cough, anorexia, myalgia, nausea, headache, and vomiting, accompanied by thrombocytopenia or low platelet count, and leukopenia or a low white blood cell count. In some cases, doctors also noticed impaired liver and kidney functions.

What are the animal origins of LayV?

■ To determine the source or animal origin of the infection, since the patients, mostly farmers, revealed close exposure to animals before they fell sick, scientists drew blood from farm animals and small animals. These sero-surveys in animals revealed that shrews, a rat like rodent, might be a reservoir of the LayV.

The *NEJM* letter says that contact tracing of nine patients with 15 close-contact family members revealed no close-contact LayV transmission, but acknowledges that the sample size was too small to effectively determine the status of human-to-human transmission for LayV. So while concluding, with the available evidence, that the virus must have been directed transmitted by shrews or any other intermediary animal (goats, dogs, for instance, that tested positive for LayV in the sero-study), researchers called for further studies to examine all angles thoroughly.

Is there cause for worry in the future?

■ An article in *Nature* quotes evolutionary virologist Edward Holmes, at the University of Sydney, Australia on the way ahead. He says that there is no particular need to worry about this, but constant surveillance would be critical. In general, regularly testing humans and animals for emerging viruses is critical to understand the risk of zoonotic diseases, he adds. The need for surveillance cannot be over stated, certainly not since the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world without warning.

The *Central News Agency*, a government-controlled news outfit in Taiwan, quoted Chuang Jen-hsiang, deputy director of Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control saying they would soon establish a standardised procedure for domestic laboratories to conduct genome sequencing and strengthen surveillance of LayV.

While LayV as we know it now does not pose a huge threat, it is apparent that the nature of a connected world facilitates the easy transmission of viruses globally. While scientific research and pharmacology development have gotten a boost in the arm in the two years since the pandemic, prevention continues to be infinitely better than cure. Constant, unflagging surveillance, and adequate sharing of information between nations is essential, experts underscore.

NITISH KUMAR

The man who mastered political engineering

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

The JD(U) leader has used the secularism and anti-corruption cards deftly to make and break alliances that made him one of the longest serving Chief Ministers of one of India's poorest States

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Nitish Kumar has a degree in electrical engineering, a profession that he never pursued. Instead, over four decades of electoral politics, he has mastered political engineering, earning him the rare distinction of being one of the longest serving Chief Ministers of Bihar. On Wednesday, he took oath as Chief Minister for the eighth time. On six occasions, it was with the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and twice, including the latest stint, with the support of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

Politics was not a natural choice of career for him. When he left his home in Bakhtiyarpur for higher education in Patna in 1966, the aim was to get a well-paying and stable job. It was Ram Manohar Lohia's acerbic writing that ensnared Mr. Kumar. If Lohia's words seduced him into politics, Jai Prakash Narayan's call for "total revolution" gave him a space.

Mr. Kumar, like many present-day politicians, is a child of the JP movement. But unlike many of his peers, he did not immediately hit the limelight. His electoral career began with a defeat. In 1980, after years of hanging around on the margins, he finally got ticket to contest the Bihar elections from Harnaut, his home district of Nalanda. He lost the seat. But it was only the beginning. Even his critics would appreciate Mr. Kumar's doggedness in the face of defeat. He stayed on in Harnaut, wresting the seat in 1985 by a margin of over 20,000 votes.

Mr. Kumar and Lalu Prasad's paths have been intertwined right from the beginning. He acted as Mr. Prasad's cheerleader and advocate, whenever needed. If Mr. Prasad was a flamboyant orator, Mr. Kumar was the quiet backroom boy who drafted press notes and lobbied for Mr. Prasad. In March 1990, Mr. Kumar played a crucial role in getting support for Mr. Prasad in a keenly contested battle within the Janata Dal for the Chief Minister's post.

But within two years, the spell had broken, and Mr. Kumar and Mr. Prasad were no longer on talking terms. In part, the disenchantment grew because of what Mr. Kumar called Mr. Prasad's dictatorial ways.

Split with Lalu

The final break came in April 1994. A group of 14 Janata Dal MPs revolted against Mr. Prasad, lining up behind socialist stalwart George Fernandes and naming the group Janata Dal (George). While Fernandes was the face of the group, Mr. Kumar was its creator. On October 19, 1994, this group renamed itself the Samata Party with a ringing call – Bihar *Bachao* (save Bihar from Mr. Prasad's clutches). With this began Mr. Kumar's 21-year-long feud with Mr. Prasad. However, the road ahead was not smooth. As in 1980, Mr. Kumar, once again, came face to face with defeat. The newly formed Samata Party got just seven seats in the 1995 Bihar Assembly election.

It was a few months after this ignominious defeat that Mr. Kumar met L.K. Advani, then president of the BJP, and in no time an alliance was consolidated between the two on the foundation of anti-Lalu Prasad sentiments. While Mr. Kumar is accused of being an opportunist, it is a fact that his association with the BJP exceeds any other political relationship he had. In all these years, the BJP willingly assisted him on his way to 1 Aney Marg, the Chief Minister's residence in Patna. The 2000 Assembly election in Bihar is an instructive example.

In 1997, after the unveiling of the fodder scam, Mr. Prasad formed the RJD, parting ways with the Janata Dal. He was on a sticky wicket and the Opposition hoped that he could be defeated. But they squabbled and squandered away their chance. Mr. Kumar, whose Samata Party had allied with his former socialist colleagues Ram Vilas Paswan and Sharad Yadav's Janata Dal (United) just months ago for the Lok Sabha election, parted ways ahead of the 2000 Assembly polls.

The BJP heaped abuses on Nitish Kumar in 2014 when he took a stand against Modi, but all this was forgotten and forgiven after he returned to the NDA in 2017

The results reflected their differences. The BJP alliance got 122 seats while the RJD secured 124. With the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the centre, the NDA staked claim in Bihar and anointed Mr. Kumar, for the first time, as Chief Minister. He lasted just seven days in the post.

Opposition parties applauded the "secular" change in Bihar. Mr. Kumar has, in the recent years, deployed the "secularism argument" to justify his political somersaults. In June 2013, just a week after then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi was named the campaign committee chief of the BJP for the 2014 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Kumar snapped his ties with the BJP. For a year, prior to taking the plunge, he had been campaigning for a "secular Prime Minister".

But his secular outlook was new-found, as many critics pointed out that Mr. Kumar did not flinch during the 2002 Gujarat riots. The Vajpayee government lost at least two allies – Ram Vilas Paswan and Omar Abdullah – as a fall-out of the riots but Mr. Kumar, who was the Union Agriculture Minister, stayed on. He had not openly repudiated Mr. Modi in the context of the Gujarat riots. But he was growing uncomfortable by his growing stature at the national level. Mr. Kumar has always nursed Prime Ministerial ambitions, according to analysts. But with Narendra Modi's arrival, there was no vacancy.

His decision to snap ties with the BJP cost him dear. He did not see a pro-Modi wave brewing. In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the JD(U) got only two seats, forcing Mr. Kumar to step down from the Chief Minister's post. He briefly handed over the baton to his colleague Jitan Ram Manjhi. But within months, he was hobnobbing with Mr. Prasad and the RJD. In June 2015, the two, caught in an awkward embrace, announced their alliance for the coming assembly elections in the state.

Unravelling alliance

The alliance started unravelling within a year. In November 2016 when the opposition raged against the Modi government's demonetisation, Mr. Kumar's was the lone voice from the Opposition camp supporting it. In February 2017, Mr. Kumar claimed he had to hear the voice of his *antaratma* or conscience. He could not continue to head a government when his deputy was under the radar of enforcement agencies for a host of corruption cases.

In politics, alliances change. The BJP heaped abuses on Mr. Kumar in 2014 when he took a stand against Mr. Modi. But all this was forgotten and forgiven after he returned to the NDA in 2017.

However, it was not Vajpayee's BJP that Mr. Kumar had returned to. By the time Bihar faced the next Assembly election in November 2020, there was no Arun Jaitley to broker peace and put the house in order. The BJP was no longer satisfied with playing a supporting role. In a Machiavellian move, they deployed Chirag Paswan of the Lok Jan Shakti Party, to hurt the JD(U). Mr. Paswan walked out of the NDA and contested against the JD(U). Mr. Kumar, now with just 43 legislators, was no longer in a commanding position.

Announcing the party's latest split with the BJP, JD(U) president and Mr. Kumar's loyalist, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, claimed that the BJP was trying to replicate the Maharashtra model in Bihar, breaking the JD(U) from within. Sources say Mr. Kumar had made up his mind to leave the NDA months ago, but the RJD, still nursing the 2017 hangover, could not easily trust him. It took the two sides nearly three months to thrash out an alliance.

The obvious question in everyone's mind now is how long will the latest Mahagatbandhan government last. Mr. Kumar's parting message to the BJP is this: you may have come to power in 2014 but will you remain in power beyond 2024? The challenge also belies his own wish to play a larger role in national politics. But will he, in his twilight years, leave his favourite playground in favour of exploring an uncertain future in Delhi? The last word has not been spoken.

In Focus

- Inspired by Ram Manohar Lohia's socialism, Nitish took the political plunge during J.P.'s call for 'total revolution'
- In 2000, he became the Chief Minister of Bihar for the first time in an alliance with the BJP, but the stint lasted only seven days
- Of his eight terms as CM, he formed the government six times with the BJP and twice, including the latest stint, with the RJD

SALMAN RUSHDIE

The language of truth

The famed author is battling for his life in a U.S. hospital after a stab attack

SUDIPTA DATTA

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

'I am a dead man.' That's what Salman Rushdie thought on February 14, 1989, the day Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued the fatwa for his 1988 novel *The Satanic Verses* for alleged blasphemy against Islam. Rushdie was in London, and when a BBC reporter asked him how he felt knowing he'd just been sentenced to death, he said, "It doesn't feel good," as recounted in *Joseph Anton*, his 2012 memoir, alluding to the name he had adopted while going underground soon after the death decree.

The celebrated writer, a 'Midnight's Child' (June 19, 1947), is today fighting for his life in a U.S. hospital after being stabbed several times at a literary event in New York on Friday. The attacker has been identified and is in custody, but the motive is unknown. Three decades later, does the fatwa still hold? Maybe it does.

The day the fatwa was issued, Rushdie attended the funeral service of his close friend and writer Bruce Chatwin who had died of AIDS. Other writer friends gathered at the Greek Orthodox Church, like Martin Amis, hugged and told him, "We're worried about you," to which Rushdie replied, "I'm worried about me." The American travel writer, Paul Theroux, called out, "Salman, next week, we'll be back for you!" What followed was that Rushdie went into hiding for nine years, under the protection of the British government.

After he emerged out of seclusion, and moved to the U.S., he has not for once given up his fight against religious extremism of all types, and fight for freedom of expression, dissent as being critical to democracy, and liberty. Now 75, he has been making appearances in public in and around New York without security. Clearly, he is keen to "live his life" and write what he wants. Out in February 2023 is his new novel, *Victory City*, a "translation of an ancient epic" from the Indian south, a book about "power and the hubris of those in power".

Writing glory

Rushdie shot to writing glory for *Midnight's Children*, his 1981 magic-realism novel. Those were the heyday of the genre with Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Gunter Grass showing the way. *Midnight's Children* reimagined India's independence as a story of twins, through Saleem Sinai and the newborn nation. Rushdie was a Bombay boy who had made his life in London among the English, but often "felt cursed by a double unbelonging". Wanting to reclaim the Indian identity he had lost, Rushdie felt he had found "an intersection between the private [his own life] and the public [India's birth as a nation] and would build his book on that crossroads". He did not want to write it in "cool Forsterian English" or in the fashion of Jane Austen. "India was not cool. It was hot. It was hot and overcrowded and vulgar and loud and it needed a language to match that and he would try to find that language". Rushdie found that language, and charted a path for other writers in English in the subcontinent – from Arundhati Roy to Kamila Shamsie, Mohsin Hamid to Kiran Desai.

While in hiding, Rushdie delivered on a promise made to his son Zafar in 1989 – then, nine years old – that he would one day write a book he could read. The result is the delightful *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, a story of a father, Rashid, and a son, Haroun, and of Haroun's determination to rescue his father, the Shah of Blah, and return to him his special Gift of the Gab, that of telling stories. In an interview with Rushdie, who was still under cover, after the book was published, old friend Martin Amis (*Visiting Mrs Nabokov and other Excursions*), wrote that it appeared that Rushdie was condemned to "enact his own fictional themes of exile, ostracism, disjuncture, personal reinvention," occupying a kind of "shadowland", but "formidably alive."

In later years, Rushdie's novels (*The Enchantress of Florence*, *The Golden House*, *Quichotte*) may not have touched similar highs, but his essays, the latest collected in *Languages of Truth* (2021), are as incisive and perceptive as those in *Imaginary Homelands* and *Step Across the Line*. "If I had stood before you a decade ago, I might have argued that religious extremism was the greatest threat to liberty we faced. I did not foresee what seems to be a secularisation of that fanaticism," he writes in a recent piece, a pithy summation of where we are. As Rushdie battles for his life, this fight against extremism is far from over.

VARAVARA RAO

Different shades of a poet

The Telugu writer and activist has got permanent bail on health grounds

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

Even at the ripe age of 82 and in fragile condition of health, his day starts with a brief morning walk. Once back in his living room at his modest home, he picks up a book from one of those numerous ones sent by his family members and friends. Reading and writing are his two obsessions and he continues to do so, while recuperating from bad health and post COVID-19 complications.

This summarises Varavara Rao, the revolutionary poet, teacher, journalist, advocate of alternative people's movements and intellectual.

Arrested on August 28, 2018 in the Elgar Parishad case, he was given medical bail on March 6, 2021, and it was only a few days back, considering his deteriorating health condition, that the Supreme Court granted him permanent bail on the same grounds. Love for literature and writing, irrespective of the language, had come to him quite naturally in his childhood, as being last among the 10 siblings (five sisters and four brothers), he was surrounded by books and publications. All his brothers were into some kind of writing.

Born on November 3, 1940, at Chinna Pendyala of Jangaon district of Telangana in a middle-class Brahmin family, Mr. Rao, from a young age, saw his brothers, who were staunch Congressmen, fight against the atrocities of Razakars under the Nizam. The idea of socialism was sowed in him deep and his first poem 'Socialistu Chandrudu' (Socialist Moon) on the Soviet Union sending the dog Laika to space, was published in the Telugu magazine *Swatantra*, when he was 17 years old.

Peasant movement

He was deeply influenced by the writings of his brother Raghava Rao, Sri Sri and Chalam. Barely in his teens, he was attracted towards the Telangana Peasant Movement, in which one of his first cousins was a squad leader, who later became a Member of Parliament. Probably this was his first brush with the communist ideology. After completing MA from Osmania University, Mr. Rao taught at a couple private colleges before joining the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India as a publication assistant. In 1968, he came back to Warangal to take up a teaching profession, and this was the turning point in his life, as Warangal was then the hotbed of the Naxalite movement.

Mr. Rao penned over 17 books of poems and about 17 books on various other subjects that also dealt with the economic situation of the country and translated two novels. Over 100 of his poems have been translated into Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi and Bengali and English. When he was hospitalized in 2021, his poems were translated into at least 20 European and other languages.

Inspired by the Naxalbari movement in 1970, he was instrumental in the founding of two writers' associations – 'Tirugubatu Kavulu' (the Association of Rebel Poets) and the Viplava Rachayitala Sangham, (the Revolutionary Writers' Association), which is popularly known as Virasam.

Virasam was banned in 2005 for the first time and the ban was lifted in 2006 as a judicial panel struck it down. It was banned again by the Telangana government in 2021, but within a month, the order was withdrawn. Since he was first arrested in October 1973 under MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act), Mr. Rao was arrested at least 16 times, including the arrest in August, 2018, in the Elgar Parishad case, and was implicated in over 27 cases, including the two while he was in jail in the Elgar case.

Mr. Rao was acquitted in 13 of the cases and some of them such as the Secunderabad and Ramnagar Conspiracy case took over 15 to 17 years of trial. The courts had quashed or discharged about three cases and nine were withdrawn by the prosecution. He spent over seven years in imprisonment, at times in solitary confinement.

Mr. Rao also acted as a key person in the peace talks between the Naxalites and the Andhra Pradesh government in 2004. The Maoist party came out of the talks in January 2006 after an encounter, alleging that the State had violated the ceasefire agreement reached six months earlier.

Mr. Rao's love for books has never failed him, but what hurts him the most now is that he is no longer able to write, as his hands tremble. Known for having a calligraphic writing skill, he misses it the most, say people close to him.

CCI clears Adani Group's acquisition of ACC, Ambuja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the acquisition of Holcim's stake in Ambuja Ltd. and ACC Ltd. by the Adani Group.

In a tweet on Friday, the watchdog said it had approved the "acquisition of the stake in Holderind Investments, Ambuja Cements and ACC by Endeavour Trade and Investment."

The proposed combination involves acquisition of 100% stake in Holderind Investments Ltd. by Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd.

Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd. is a Mauritius-based company and belongs to the Adani Group.

Holderind Investments, held by Holderfin BV, belongs to the Switzerland-based Holcim Group, and is a holding company of cement manufacturers Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd.

Holderind Investments owned 63.11% stake in Ambuja Cements and 4.48% stake in ACC and further, Ambuja held 50.05% stake in ACC.

In May, Adani Group announced a deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim Ltd.'s businesses in India - Ambuja Ltd. and ACC Ltd.

Along with it, Adani Group had made an open offer to public shareholders of both the companies to acquire 26% stake each in the firm.

The regulator also approved Endeavour's open offer for further acquisition of stake purchase of up to 26% stake each in Ambuja Cements and ACC.

Deals beyond a certain threshold require approval from the regulator.

India can sustain CAD of 2.5-3%: Patra

RBI Deputy Governor says current account deficit of less than 3% will not cause external sector crisis

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

India's economy can cope with a current account deficit (CAD) of 2.5-3% of GDP without facing an external sector crisis, RBI Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra said on Saturday.

"Our experience has been that India can sustain a current account deficit of 2.5-3.0% without getting into an external sector crisis," the Reserve Bank of India official said in a speech on Saturday.

Considering the increase in international crude oil prices in 2022, the trade deficit has widened causing concern. In July, the trade deficit widened to a record $30 billion largely due to a 70% surge in oil imports.

Slippery slope: Considering the rise in international crude prices, trade deficit has widened causing concern. • FILE PHOTO

Explaining the context for the significance of the CAD, Mr. Patra said: "The current account deficit in the country's balance of payments (BoP) determines how much of foreign savings or net capital inflows into the country can be absorbed or used for growth. Exports earn foreign exchange while imports have to be paid for in foreign exchange".

He said given India's reliance on the overseas purchase of items that the country does not produce such as crude oil and items such as machinery, equipment and technology, imports typically exceed exports and hence earnings of foreign exchange were not sufficient for covering import payments. "The gap has to be filled by borrowing from abroad which, however, has to be serviced through principal and interest payments," he said, adding "if debt servicing exceeds our earnings, we have to either reduce imports and stifle our growth prospects or default on debt payments and face international isolation".

Recounting how a record increase in oil prices and high gold imports had pushed the current account deficit above the "Plimsoll line [of 2.5-3% of GDP levels] and to historically high levels during 2011-13" Mr. Patra recalled how the U.S. Federal Reserve's contemplation of an end to easy monetary policy in the summer of 2013 and the consequent 'taper tantrum' had led India to being labelled as a part of the 'fragile five' economies that had included Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa and Turkey.

'Domestic savings key'

Mapping India's growth over the decades, he said a striking feature of the economy was that the growth had been home financed. "Investment is financed primarily by domestic savings, with foreign savings" playing a supplemental role and being a "double-edged sword".

"Another noteworthy feature is that the saving rate has started slowing down since 2007-08 after the global financial crisis. Eventually, this pulled down the investment rate which has exhibited deceleration since 2012-13. Reversing this trend is critical to achieve higher growth," he stressed.

'Growth of 11% can vault India to 2nd spot by 2031'

RBI's Patra cites GDP in PPP as relevant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

If India achieves a growth rate of 11% into the next decade, it would become the second-largest economy in the world not by 2048 as projected earlier, but by 2031, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra asserted on Saturday.

Michael D. Patra

"Even if it does not sustain this pace and slows to 4-5% in 2040-50, it will become the largest economy of the world by 2060 [surpassing China]," Mr. Patra said speaking at an event to mark 'India @ 75'.

Referring to India's progress in a cross-country setting, he said India was currently the world's sixth largest economy in terms of market exchange rates. "The age of China began in the early 1990s, taking it to the position of the second-largest economy of the world. It is from 2015 that India's time seems to be arriving," he said, adding India was poised to be the most important driver of global growth after China in 2022.

Stating that the use of market exchange rates for comparisons of economic performance measured by GDP had been questioned, he said an alternative measure was purchasing power parity. "It is the price of an average basket of goods and services that a household needs for livelihood in each country," he said.

"Currently, India is the third-largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, with a share of 7% of global GDP [after China (18%) and the U.S. (16%)]," Mr. Patra noted. Observing that as per the 2021 calculations of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) the Indian economy would overtake the U.S. by 2048 in PPP terms, he said this would then make India the largest economy in the world after China.

"In terms of PPP, the exchange rate appreciates with the prosperity of a nation and a rise in its productivity. The Indonesian rupiah is set to become the strongest currency in the world, with the Indian rupee emerging as the second strongest currency," the RBI official added.

'Manufacturing hub'

He said the four engines that could power India to "achieve escape velocity from the emerging economy orbit and take off towards becoming an economic superpower" include demographics dividend, manufacturing, exports and internalisation. "If manufacturing were to grow at 10% - the target set by the 'Make in India' campaign - its share would reach 25% in 2030-31. India would become the manufacturing shop floor of the world," he said. To achieve this manufacturing sector must adapt to the fourth industrial revolution develop a skilled labour force by stepping up investment in human capital.

"If India capitalises on its opportunities and overcomes the challenges, it is widely believed that India will bend time," Mr. Patra remarked.

Shriram Properties posts ₹10.48 cr. June-quarter net

Sales bookings rise 26% to ₹313 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Shriram Properties Ltd. has reported a consolidated net profit of ₹10.48 crore for the quarter ended June on better sales.

The firm had posted a net loss of ₹3.67 crore in the year-earlier period.

Total income more than doubled to ₹145.11 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal, from ₹60.9 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

In a statement, the company said it had reported 20% growth on a year-on-year basis in sales volumes at 0.66 million, supported by strong sustenance sales across projects and the launch of a new phase in an ongoing project. Sales bookings rose 26% to ₹313 crore during April-June, from ₹248 crore in the year-earlier period. "The continued strong earnings and turnaround momentum is reassuring and demonstrates the strength of our team and the operating platform," said CMD M. Murali.

M. Murali

CUB sees SpiceJet settling its dues of ₹97 cr. by June 2023

Bank's MD says airline has pledged 2 cr. shares of promoter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Low-cost carrier SpiceJet has offered to settle the outstanding ₹97 crore dues to the City Union Bank Ltd. (CUB) in a phased manner before June 2023, the lender's MD said on Saturday.

"The management of SpiceJet has come forward to settle their dues in a phased manner," CUB's MD & CEO N. Kamakodi told analysts on a call. "They have been servicing their interest dues regularly and interest are being paid up to July," he said.

Explaining that the carrier had requested the bank to renew the existing facility and terms and conditions, he said the renewal plan was mutually agreed upon.

As per the agreed terms and conditions, SpiceJet had immediately paid ₹3 crore dues in July and agreed to pay an additional ₹12 crore before the end of August.

While agreeing to settle the balance of ₹97 crore before June, SpiceJet had, as collateral, pledged two crore shares owned by the promoter. The market value of the stake is over ₹90 crore.

The account had now moved out of the special mention account status. Till Q3 of FY22, CUB had made a provision of ₹85 crore and a further contingency provision of ₹12 crore in Q1 of FY23. So, the bank had made a contingency provision for the entire sum, he said.

The lender also said it was looking to push the growth pedal to achieve credit growth of 15-18%, against 12-15% announced earlier, as it was expected to do well on all factors such as credit growth, non-performing assets and asset quality.

"As of now, it looks as if we could press the growth pedal towards the third and fourth quarter," he added.

The financial independence struggle

Following fund management professionals is wiser than listening to novices

VIDYA BALA

While we celebrate the nation's Independence Day, the usual trope for financial professionals is to write about the financial independence of individuals. Especially these days, with the FIRE movement (Financially Independent/Retire Early) having caught the imagination of people, this message resonates even better.

• GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

But I would like to talk about another, related but a different independence that could have a significant impact on your financial independence. This is the independence of the sources of information and advice that guide us in our decision making when it comes to our money and investments.

Today, there are broadly five channels through which you consume financial advice and manage your money. One is the traditional intermediary and broker channel where the intermediary (your bank RM or distributor) earns a commission from the manufacturer on the financial product they sell. Or, the broker feeds you with a battery of buy and sell recommendations so that you churn your stock portfolio and thereby help them earn brokerage fee.

Two, the more recent registered investment adviser route (earlier called financial planners) where you pay a fee to get your cash flow estimates, build portfolios accordingly and monitor them.

Three, a sub-set of the two, albeit a far less expensive one, are platforms where you simply pay for independent recommendations and do the investment execution yourself (DIY).

Four, is the reviews and recommendations in the media, where there is neither any onus or regulatory monitoring on the recommendations nor any obligation to follow up. Five, though far from being a regulated channel, a very popular one - influencers - self-certified financial gurus who give you advice for free or for a subscription, and earn revenue by harvesting your attention in the platforms they are on.

Let us break the above into those that are regulated and those that have an inherent fiduciary responsibility by the way they are structured. Such a fiduciary capacity determines whether you get your recommendations/advice from an independent source.

Of the five channels mentioned above, the first three are regulated. The last two are not. In other words, in the last two options, there is no regulatory body to come to your rescue if you are given improper advice or there is mis-selling as a result of a hidden agenda.

Who is the paymaster?

The largest and most popular channel of dissemination of recommendations and advice is the distributor/agent/bank/broker channel. When you have a financial agent, the most important question you ask yourself is who is she/he working for? Who is the paymaster? In this case, it is clearly the manufacturer. The manufacturers of financial products pay the agent/distributor for selling their products. There are two issues with this: the first and the most obvious reason is the cost. The commission eats into your returns. For mutual funds, this can be anywhere in the range of 0.25-1.25%. For insurance, it can be a far higher fee with a wider range, depending on the nature of the policy.

MONEYWISE

The second and the more important reason is the trust factor. When a distributor is selling for commission, there is an inherent bias in the system on whether he/she is giving you the best funds that fit you or funds that earn a higher commission. While one cannot generalise and there are many individual distributors working for the benefit of their customers, the simple question is where the loyalty lies. This can always raise fiduciary issues. It is for this reason that regulators such as SEBI have been promoting the 'direct plan' to allow investors to skip the distribution route if they choose to.

Hence, these two factors make this channel a less independent one and can always make you wonder whether your agent is working in your best interest.

The second and third channels - the investment advisor route and the research analyst route - seek to break away from the commission-based financial intermediary model.

They charge a fee to the investor for their services and do not earn any commission from the manufacturer of the product. And as long as the fee you pay is lower than the cost you save by skipping the agent layer, it helps you earn more returns! Besides, this structure leaves no room for doubting the independence of the advisor or analyst. In other words, you free yourself from the need to constantly judge whether your channel is unbiased, and can instead focus on choosing a good research platform or advisor and earn sustained returns.

No free lunches

Many who are dependent on influencers or the media should understand that there are no free lunches. One investor asked me what was the difference between a famous market news portal and a research platform he planned to subscribe.

The former took ads on the very products it spoke about, was neither regulated by SEBI, nor was mandated to follow any rules for providing recommendation. Most investors are not aware of this.

On similar lines, an influencer makes a living out of his/her videos not merely by charging a subscription from you, but from earning income from the products he/she chooses to talk about.

You may at best use them as an information or learning source. Even there, books work better.

Else, following top academicians and fund management professionals will be wiser than following a trader with just a year's experience making a fast buck. Unfortunately, it is not serious practitioners who have a cult status in social media. Hence, going by followers and video views may often be misleading. It can end up as a case of the 'Pied Piper' effect.

So why not seek a different kind of independence this year? Not just financial independence, but an independent source of advice?

(The writer is co-founder Primeinvestor.in)

Prime Minister felicitates Indian contingent for CWG success

He says the nation had the responsibility 'to create a sports ecosystem that is globally excellent, inclusive, diverse and dynamic'

Recognising excellence: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur arrive for the felicitation ceremony in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

GENERAL

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a celebratory function at his residence for the athletes and coaches who had helped India finish fourth in the medals table in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Saying that he would have loved to interact with each one of them individually, the Prime Minister addressed them with a vibrant speech on Saturday, inspiring them to strengthen their resolve for the next Asian Games and Olympics.

"I had confidence that you will succeed. I see confidence in your eyes, and that is your identity," the Prime Minister said.

Acknowledging the 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals, and reeling off the names of the star players who have emerged as the face of Indian sport, as effortlessly as he named the leaders of India's freedom struggle, the Prime Minister acknowledged the performances of many who lost narrowly and fell short of the medals.

Special mention

He gave the athletes a glimpse of the state of the country during the Games, as millions stayed awake to follow the fortunes of the Indian players in different events. He commended the performance of the women athletes, especially Renuka Singh Thakur who emerged the maximum wicket-taker in cricket.

He also pointed out that 31 medals came from athletes making their debut in the Games and said that it signified the growing confidence of the youth.

He was proud about India winning medals in four new events, "from lawn bowls to athletics"

He mentioned that the nation had the responsibility "to create a sports ecosystem that is globally excellent, inclusive, diverse and dynamic," so that no talent was deprived of a chance to shine.

He congratulated the coaches on their important role, and said that this was just the beginning for India and that "golden times" were ahead for Indian sports.

The Prime Minister made it a point to mention the successful conduct of the Chess Olympiad in Mamallapuram near Chennai and the impressive performance of the Indian players.

He goaded the athletes to visit various educational institutions and inspire the youth, and continue with their 'Vijay Yatra'.

Shakib appointed T20 captain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday appointed all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as the skipper of the T20 team for the upcoming Asia Cup, the New Zealand tri-series and the T20 World Cup.

The squad: Shakib Al Hasan (Capt.), Anamul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Mahmudullah, Mahedi Hasan, Mohammad Saifuddin, Hasan Mahmud, Mustafizur Rahman, Nasum Ahmed, Sabbir Rahman, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Ebadot Hossain, Parvez Hossain Emon, Nurul Hasan and Taskin Ahmed.

Kiwis crush Windies

Glenn Phillips. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KINGSTON (JAMAICA)

New Zealand pulverised a demoralised West Indies by 90 runs in the second T20 International at Sabina Park on Friday to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The scores: New Zealand 215/5 (Devon Conway 42, Glenn Phillips 76, Daryl Mitchell 48, Obed McCoy 3/40) bt West Indies 125/9 (Michael Bracewell 3/15, Mitchell Santner 3/15).

Toss: New Zealand. **MoM:** Glenn Phillips.

New Zealand won by 90 runs to lead series 2-0.

Sania-Keys duo moves up

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sania Mirza and Madison Keys defeated Sofia Kenin and Yulia Putintseva 7-5, 3-6, [10-6] in the doubles quarterfinals of the $2,527,250 WTA tennis tournament in Toronto.

Other results:

$53,120 Challenger, Chicago: Doubles (semifinals): Andre Goransson (Swe) & Ben Mclachlan (Jpn) bt Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni 7-5, 4-6, [10-3].

Quarterfinals: Yuki & Saketh bt Sander Gille (Bel) & John-Patrick Smith (Aus) 4-6, 7-6 (8), [13-11].

€45,730 Challenger, Meerbusch, Germany: Doubles (semifinals): Neil Oberleitner & Philipp Oswald (Aut) bt Jonas Forejtek (Cze) & Sumit Nagal 6-2, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Semifinals: Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) bt Sasikumar Mukund 6-4, 7-6(8).

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (final): Li Majun & Sun Qian (Chn) bt Mohamed Ali Abibsi (Alg) & Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta 6-3, 6-1.

Semifinals: Karteek & Abibsi bt Valentin De Carvalho (Por) & Anis Ghorbel (Tun) 7-6(9), 6-4.

IOA hands cash awards to CWG medal winners

Gold medallists given ₹20 lakh, silver ₹10 lakh and bronze 7.5 lakh each

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) kept its promise and promptly presented the cash awards for the Commonwealth Games medallists at a felicitation function here on Saturday.

The acting president of IOA, Anil Khanna, congratulated the Indian contingent for finishing fourth in the medals table with 23 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze.

The gold winners were presented ₹20 lakh, while it was ₹10 lakh for silver and ₹7.5 lakh for bronze medallists.

Happy day

It was a happy day for the athletes, as they had attended the felicitation by the Prime Minister earlier in the day.

Khanna said that he had a fruitful discussion with the Organising Committee Chairman of the Victoria Games, and assured that India would make a strong pitch for the inclusion of shooting and wrestling in the next Games, and possibly archery as well.

"The Victoria Games are going to be held in five cities. There is a good possibility of more games being held.

"The Commonwealth Games is extremely important for us. Indian women's cricket, lawn bowling and a whole of athletes have got tremendous recognition from the Games," he said.

Khanna also assured that the IOA would soon have election and have a robust role to play in Indian sports, with excellent support from the government.

"Already all the federations are following the sports code. We are working on the IOA constitution. We have the highest respect for the IOC.

"But we have to follow the law of the land," said Khanna, while throwing light on the status of the IOA.

Kapustin hopes Eldhose, Aboobacker can build on C'wealth Games success

India's jumps coach sees potential but feels path to further glory will not be easy

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Denis Kapustin is wholesome in his praise for M. Harikrishnan. Appointed around five months ago as India's jumps coach, Kapustin, a Russian, couldn't travel to either Eugene for the World Championships or Birmingham for the Commonwealth Games because of visa-related issues.

That did not stop the triple-jumpers Eldhose Paul and Abdulla Aboobacker from clinching the Commonwealth gold and silver medals, courtesy some online lessons by Harikrishnan, coach at the SAI South Centre here.

"I am very happy and feel a part of this success," says Kapustin. "But I can't say I gave much [inputs]. I joined only recently. So, all credit to coach Hari."

Aiming for a jump: Eldhose, Aboobacker, Kapustin and Harikrishnan, during an interaction in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Central role

However, for the next two years until the Paris 2024 Olympics, Kapustin's role is expected to be central. Four Indian men feature among the top-25 triple-jump distances this season – Praveen Chithravel and Karthik Unnikrishnan along with Eldhose and Aboobacker. But their bests are still way off the medal-winning distances at world level, which often tend to be upwards of 17.50m.

"Their performance is enough for CWG, but for the future they need to train harder and reduce technical mistakes," says Kapustin. "In competition you can win with just one [good] jump. Eldhose proved it.

"In Birmingham, he had like 16:30, 16:40... and one big winning jump. He did just one centimetre off Eldhose (17.02 to 17.03). I lost my silver medal at Sydney 2000 by just one cm. So, I know the value of every centimetre."

But rapid improvements in field events are agonisingly hard; world records across men's high jump, long jump and triple jump are older by 27 years or more. Triple jump, especially, requires a perfect combination of speed, power and co-ordination across the hop, step and jump phases.

"If you want increase your speed and strength, there is much more injury risk like Neeraj [Chopra] took at the Worlds [in javelin]," explains Kapustin. "In our sport, like in Formula One, things can go wrong in a split second. Triple jump is beautiful to watch, but very technical."

"But athletes surprise. Someday they will suddenly jump half-a-metre more. This is not a like a lottery, but there is always that surprise element. CWG was not exactly a surprise, though I was worried after the Worlds. And I hope to see them on the podium again."

17.03 by jumping from 17cm behind the line. So, he has room. But still, it is not enough for Worlds and Olympics."

But what gives Kapustin hope is the fact that Eldhose did finish ninth at the Worlds on debut and Aboobacker has shown significant improvement in the last few months.

"Abdulla has a different style of jumping, focused more on strength and I like it," Kapustin says.

"He has increased his results this season by 40cm. That is big progress. He was

Chennai likely to host India-NZ T20I

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

The M.A. Chidambaram Stadium is likely to host a India-New Zealand T20I in November this year, *The Hindu* has learnt from reliable sources.

Chennai is also, according to sources, slated to stage the ODI against Australia in March 2023.

Chepauk is expected to be busy this season. It is understood that the BCCI requested the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) to host the Duleep Trophy matches since it would be raining in other parts of the country during the period of the competition – Sept. 8 to 25.

Duleep Trophy is not just returning to domestic cricket but will once again be played in an inter-zonal format. Matches are expected to take place in Chennai and other centres such as Tiruneveli, Salem, Coimbatore and Natham.

Apart from this, Tamil Nadu will host a number of Ranji Trophy games with the BCCI reverting to home and away format with four elite and a plate group.

Ramesh — the coach who guided India to two Olympiad medals

'Chess in the country shouldn't lose momentum after historic show'

44TH OLYMPIAD

P. K. AJITH KUMAR

Just a few days after coaching India 2 to a bronze medal at the Chess Olympiad, R.B. Ramesh has moved on to his next assignment. He has landed in the United States to help his ward R. Praggnanandhaa's campaign at the FTX Crypto Cup, beginning in Miami on Monday.

Praggnanandhaa was part of the victorious Indian team at the Chennai Olympiad. And that was quite a young team, too. Though seeded only 11th, the expectations were huge about Ramesh's boys.

Besides Praggnanandha, the team contained three other teenagers, D. Gukesh, Nihal Sarin and Raunak Sadhwani. B. Adhiban, 29, completed the squad.

This, however, isn't the first Indian team to win an Olympiad medal under Ramesh's training. In 2014, he had guided the Indian team to a first-ever Olympiad team medal.

Underdogs

"Both the wins are special and we were the underdogs on both occasions," Ramesh told *The Hindu* over phone from the US on Saturday. "But this time around, I knew that the team had chances for a medal. And when we won the bronze, we felt we should have won the gold."

He is happy that his boys did what was expected of them. "Gukesh was of course fantastic and he lived up to our expectations, scoring heavily on the top board," he said.

R.B. Ramesh. • M. VEDHAN

"I thought Nihal would show the consistency we needed on the second board and he remained unbeaten. I thought Praggnanandhaa would win us crucial points on the third board and he did that. Raunak scored a couple of superb wins on the fourth board and Adhiban too contributed."

Ramesh is glad that the team could do it at home. "I never thought chess could become so popular in India," he said.

Strange feeling

"It felt strange to hear people chanting 'Ramesh sir, Ramesh sir' when I moved about at the venue in Mamallapuram. We were recognised at lounges and the airport security check as well."

He believes the Olympiad is a turning point for Indian chess. "I think it is for the first time that chess has reached out to the common man," he said.

"During the last fortnight, I don't think there was anybody in Tamil Nadu that didn't know about the Chess Olympiad, thanks to the State government's organising and marketing of the tournament.

"Now we should ensure that chess doesn't lose the moment that it has got."

One of the RR owners slapped me: Taylor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former New Zealand batter Ross Taylor claimed he was "slapped" by one of the owners of Rajasthan Royals during the 2011 IPL.

Taylor said he was slapped by a owner of the franchise after he was dismissed for a duck against Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) in Mohali. Taylor made the revelation in his new autobiography, *Ross Taylor: Black & White*.

"The chase was 195, I was leg before for a duck and we didn't get close," Taylor wrote in his book, an excerpt of which was published on *Stuff.co.nz*. Afterwards, the team, support staff and management were in the hotel. One of the Royals owners said to me, 'Ross, we didn't pay you a million dollars to get a duck', and slapped me across the face

The cover of the book • UPSTART PRESS

three or four times. He was laughing and they weren't hard slaps but I'm not sure that it was entirely play-acting.

"Under the circumstances, I wasn't going to make an issue of it, but I couldn't imagine it happening in many professional sporting environments."

Sindhu to miss World c'ships

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

India's P.V. Sindhu will not take part in the upcoming World badminton championships in Tokyo from August 28 after suffering a stress fracture on the left ankle.

Confirming this to *The Hindu* on Saturday, Sindhu's father P.V. Ramana said she first suffered the injury during the quarterfinal of the recent Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

"She played in the semifinals despite severe pain before eventually going on to win the gold with a heavily strapped ankle," he said.

Pujara slams ton

Pujara. • TWITTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Cheteshwar Pujara cracked 22 runs (including three fours and a six) in an over en route to a scintillating 107 (79b, 7x4, 2x6) for Sussex Sharks against Warwickshire Bears in the Royal London One Day Cup at Birmingham on Friday. However, his innings went in vain as Sussex fell short by four runs.

Meanwhile, spin all-rounder Krunal Pandya, who turned up for Warwickshire, claimed three wickets in his side's win.

City, Arsenal maintain cruise control while United's woes multiply

Villa's Gerrard wins battle against Everton's Lampard

Eye for goal: Gabriel Jesus chips in Arsenal's opener against Leicester. • REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Manchester City stormed ominously to the top of the Premier League by cruising to a 4-0 win over Bournemouth, while Gabriel Jesus opened his Arsenal account in a 4-2 win over Leicester on Saturday.

Erling Haaland failed to score on his home debut, but the Norwegian showed there is more to his game than goals as he used his strength before sliding in Ilkay Gundogan to open the scoring for his team.

Kevin De Bruyne then took centre stage with a scintillating finish with the outside of his right foot to find the far corner before the Belgian turned provider for Phil Foden to make it 3-0 before half-time.

Haaland's arrival at City was one of the factors behind Jesus' departure and the Brazilian is already looking like a bargain for the Gunners as he marked his home debut with two goals and two assists to maintain Arsenal's perfect start.

Erik ten Hag's bad start as Manchester United manager descended into an embarrassment as Brentford thrashed the Red Devils 4-0.

At the bottom

The result left United at the foot of the Premier League table.

Steven Gerrard won the first managerial clash between him and former England teammate Frank Lampard as Aston Villa beat Everton 2-1.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 2 (Ings 31, Buendia 85) bt Everton 1 (Digne 87-og); Arsenal 4 (Jesus 23, 35, Xhaka 55, Martinelli 75) bt Leicester 2 (Saliba 53-og, Maddison 74); Brighton 0 drew with Newcastle 0; Manchester City 4 (Gundogan 19, De Bruyne 31, Foden 37, Lerma 79-og) bt Bournemouth 0.

Southampton 2 (Aribo 72, Walker-Peters 81) drew with Leeds 2 (Rodrigo 46, 60).

Wolves 0 drew with Fulham 0; Brentford 4 (Dasilva 10, Jensen 18, Mee 30, Mbeumo 35) bt Manchester United 0.

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 2 (Werner 36, Nkunu 56) drew with Cologne 2 (Dietz 40, Gvardiol 72-og).

On Friday: Bundesliga: SC Freiburg 1 (Gregoritsch 35) Borussia Dortmund 3 (Bynoe-Gittens 77, Moukoko 84, Wolf 88).

LIVE TELECAST

Formula-E: Seoul E-Prix, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 p.m.
KSCA Maharaja T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3 & 7 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.
Ireland vs Afghanistan: 4th T20I, FanCode, 8 p.m.
Ultimate kho-kho: Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 8 p.m. & 9.15 p.m.
West Indies vs New Zealand: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 12 a.m. (Monday).
La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & VOOT Select, 9 & 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday).
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD), 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday).

IN BRIEF

Unvaccinated Djokovic out of Cincinnati event

CINCINNATI

Novak Djokovic pulled out of next week's hard-court tournament in Cincinnati because he did not get any COVID-19 vaccine shots and so is not allowed to travel to the USA. That is also why Djokovic is not expected to be able to enter the U.S. Open, beginning on Aug. 29. AP

Taha excels in Tigers' six-wicket win

Warriors post a six-run victory over table leader Blasters

MAHARAJA TROPHY

CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Opener Mohd. Taha's 78 (49b, 11x4, 2x6) and his third wicket partnership of 116 in 86-balls with Sharath Srinivas (41, 42b, 1x4, 2x6) helped Hubli Tigers register a facile six-wicket win over Shivamogga Strikers on the seventh day of the Maharaja Cup KSCA T20 tournament here on Saturday.

With opener Luvnith Sisodia (0) being snapped up by Rohan Kadam at square-leg off K. Gowtham and Swapnil Yelawe (6) departing soon, caught by Vinay Sagar off medium-pacer Utham Aiyappa, Tigers were in trouble at 11 for two.

Taha steadied the innings with some fierce cuts and drives and his vital stand with Sharath enabled the team to register its second win in five games.

Put into bat, Strikers posted 133 for six in 20 overs after being reduced to 9/4 in 3.2 overs. They lost opener B.R. Sharath (3) and skipper Gowtham (4) in the second over to medium-pacer V. Koushik. Tigers' skipper A. Mithun struck to remove opener Rohan Kadam (1) and when Desmond Anthony (1) departed, Shivamogga was in dire straits (26/5 in 6.4 overs).

Sheet-anchor: Taha, in the company of Sharath, helped Tigers reach their target. • M.A. SRIRAM

K.V. Siddarth played a responsible, unbeaten knock of 62 (53b, 6x4, 1x6) replete with neat drives and cuts and lofted drives.

His 93-run stand for the sixth wicket in 73 balls with D. Avinash (41, 36b, 2x4, 2x6) helped the team's cause. Koushik bowled a steady line to take three for 25.

In the second match of the day, Mysore Warriors posted a six-run win over table leader Bengaluru Blasters for its third success in five games. Warriors also has six points but is second in the standings (on net run rate).

Set a target, Blasters were restricted to 165/8 in 20 overs. They were reduced to 17 for two in the fifth over after losing openers L.R. Chethan (4) and skipper Mayank Agarwal (8). The innings was steadied by K.V. Aneesh (48, 37b, 3x4, 2x6), who added 50 run for the third wicket with S. Rakshith (34, 25b, 1x4, 3x6).

Aneesh then put on 63 (41b) for the fifth wicket with Anirudha A. Joshi (29, 23b, 2x6). Needing 39 in 5.5 overs, Blasters fell agonisingly short.

Earlier, asked to take first strike, Warriors posted 171 for six in 20 overs. Southpaw Pavan Deshpande, who top-scored with 55 (36b, 7x4, 2x6), added 59 for the second wicket with Nihal Ullal (23, 19b, 4x4).

Shreyas Gopal (27, 19b, 4x4, 1x6) and Shubhang Hegde (33 n.o. 26b, 3x4) boosted the total furrther.

The scores: Shivamogga Strikers 133/6 in 20 overs (K.V. Siddarth 62 n.o., D. Avinash 41, V. Koushik 3/25, A. Mithun 2/20) lost to Hubli Tigers 134/4 in 17.2 overs (Mohd. Taha 78 n.o., Sharath Srinivas 41)

Mysore Warriors 171/6 in 20 overs (Pavan Deshpande 55, Shubhang Hegde 33 n.o., Shreyas Gopal 27, Nihal Ullal 23, T.Pradeep 2/38) bt Bengaluru Blasters 165/8 in 20 overs (K.V. Aneesh 48, S. Rakshith 34, Anirudha A Joshi 29, Aditya Goyal 3/32, Vidyadhar Patil 2/24, Shreyas Gopal 2/28)..

Falcon Edge obliges in feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's Falcon Edge (Akshay Kumar up) won the Royal Revive Plate, the main event of Saturday's (Aug. 13) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Akshay Kumar scored a grand treble on the day.

1. GADWAL PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **MYSTERIOUS ANGEL** (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Bellagio (R.S. Jodha) 2, Baisa (P. Vikram) 3 and Coming Home (Ishwar Sinh) 4. 3, 2-1/2 and Nk. 1m, 13.77s. ₹34 (w), 15, 13 and 31 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 78, SHW: 16 and 11, FP: 75, Q: 33, Tanala: 1,505. Favourite: Bellagio. Owner: Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. PALAMPET CUP (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **WINNING STREAK** (Afroz Khan) 1, Team Player (R.S. Jodha) 2, Explosive (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Superstellar (Akshay Kumar) 4. 2, Hd and 1/2. 1m, 41.29s. ₹41 (w), 12, 15 and 13 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 43, SHW: 24 and 31, FP: 295, Q: 143, Tanala: 1,257. Favourite: Superstellar. Owners: Mr. Arjun Reddy Ramasahayam, Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

3. RAZIA SULTANA PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only: **DR DEE DEE** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Avancia (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Protocol (Abhay Singh) 3 and Alpine Girl (Kiran Naidu 4. 5-1/4, 3/4 and Sh. 1m, 14.11s. ₹13 (w), 12, 34 and 19 (p). SHP: 111, THP: 55, SHW: 11 and 74, FP: 140, Q: 125, Tanala: 640. Favourite: Dr. Dee Dee. Owners: Mr. V. Narendar Reddy & Mr. Eswarachandra Rajagopal Tripuraneni. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

4. NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65: **SUPER ANGEL** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Mark My Day (Nakhat Singh) 2, Staridar (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Royal Grace (Afroz Khan) 4. 3/4, Sh and 1/2. 1m, 26.71s. ₹24 (w), 13, 20 and 36 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 90, SHW: 16 and 14, FP: 88, Q: 63, Tanala: 1,510. Favourite: Super Angel. Owners: Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy, Mr. Peddi Reddy Prabhakar Reddy & Mr. Katikaneni Abhijit Rao. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5. ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (1,400m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): **FALCON EDGE** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Peaky Blinders (Abhay Singh) 2, Stunning Force (Md. Ismail) 3 and Xfinity (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. Nk, 3-3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 25.09s. ₹18 (w), 13, 23 and 32 (p). SHP: 93, THP: 68, SHW: 10 and 33, FP: 141, Q: 96, Tanala: 1,322. Favourite: Falcon Edge. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer : R.H. Sequeira.

6. ROYAL WINDSOR PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **SUN DANCER** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Prime Gardenia (B. Nikhil) 2, Linewiler (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Queen Blossom (Abhay Singh) 4. 1-1/4, 1 and 1-1/2. 1m 27. 63s. ₹36 (w), 14, 43 and 14 (p). SHP: 126, THP: 60, SHW: 17 and 58, FP: 1,447, Q: 876, Tanala: 4,369. Favourite: Theo's Choice. Owners: Mr. Atul Bhanu Sanghani, Mr. Keerthi Narasimhachar, Mr. Ketineni Sayaji Rao & Mr. Sarin Katta. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹1,709 (213 tkts.) and 30%: 183 (851 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 254 (529 tkts.). Treble: (i) 309 (156 tkts.); (ii) 147 (428 tkts.).

Messi misses *Ballon d'Or* cut

FOOTBALL

REUTERS
GDANSK

Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema is among the 30 nominees on the shortlist for the prestigious men's *Ballon d'Or*, organisers *France Football* magazine announced on Friday.

The French international has had an incredible season for Real Madrid, scoring 44 goals in 46 games and helping them win the Champions League and La Liga.

No Neymar also

Seven times reigning winner Lionel Messi was not nominated for this year's award for the first time since 2005 and or was his Paris Saint-Germain teammate Neymar.

Other nominees included Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester City striker Erling Haaland – who has just joined the club from Borussia Dortmund – and last season's joint Premier League top scorer Mohamed Salah of Liverpool.

The honour for the best player in the world will be presented on Oct. 17. The trophy will now be awarded based on a regular season from August to July rather than a calendar year.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Siva swims to two gold medals

S. Siva secured two golds, one of them in a new meet record time, on the second day of the Karnataka State Senior Aquatic Championship at the Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence on Saturday.

Siva won the 200m medley in a time of 2:06.77, shaving nearly a second off his record timing from last year. His other gold came in 100m backstroke.

Select results (winners all): **Men: 100m backstroke:** S. Siva, 58.08s; 200m IM: Siva, 2:06.77 (NMR; OR: Self, 2:07.61, 2021).

Women: 100m backstroke: Ridhima Veerendra Kumar, 1:05.81 (NMR; OR: Suvana C.Baskar, 1:06.09, 2021); **50m breaststroke:** Vihitha Nayana, 34.96 (NMR; OR: Saloni Dalal, 35.24, 2019).

Ayushi and Gaurav triumph

Ayushi B. Godse and Gaurav Gowda emerged the under-13 boys' and girls' singles champions respectively at the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament, organised by Bellary District Table Tennis Association.

While Ayushi defeated Hiya Singh 11-5, 11-7, 5-11, 10-12, 11-8, 11-7, Gaurav beat Shashank Keshav Rao 11-8, 11-5, 11-5, 11-13, 11-7.

Bengaluru Lions rally to overcome Mysore Panthers

Bengaluru Lions overcame a 0-2 deficit to post a 7-2 victory over Mysore Panthers in its opening Group-B encounter in the Grand Prix Badminton League at the KBA courts on Saturday.

The results: Bengaluru Lions bt Mysore Panthers 7-2 (Janani Ananthkumar lost to Tanya Hemant (Trump match) 7-15, 3-15; S. Sanjeeth & Vaibhav Srinath bt B.M. Rahul & Rohith Mariswamy 13-15, 15-14, 15-6; S. Bhargav bt Tarun Morab 15-10, 15-9; H.V. Nithin & Janani bt G. Kiran Kumar & Tanya Hiremath 13-15, 15-10, 15-7; Vaibhav Srinath & Nithin & S. Sanjeeth bt Rohith Mariswamy & Rahul & Kiran Kumar 22-20)

On Friday: Mangalore Sharks bt Kodagu Tigers 5-2 (Vijetha Harish lost to Rujula Ramu 14-15, 15-13, 9-15; Kushal Raj & Raghu Mariswamy bt Adarsh Kumar & Vasantha Kumar 14-15, 15-11, 15-4 ((Trump match); G. Jayanth lost to Saneeth Dayanand 11-15, 8-15; Jayanth & Vijetha lost to Saif Ali & Ramya Venkatesh 14-15, 8-15; Kushal Raj & Raghu Mariswamy & C. Sachin bt Adarsh Kumar & H.R. Vasantha Kumar & Saneeth Dayanand 21-17).

Hriday stars in PPC's facile win

Hriday (33 points) led PPC to a thumping 75-52 win over Beagles BC in a boys' semifinal league match of the State Youth basketball championship on Saturday.

The results (semifinal league): Boys: VNSC 74 (Ayush 22, Varun Dass 20, Daksh 19) bt Vivek's SC 41 (Aarush 18); PPC 75 (Hriday 33, Milind 17, Varun 16) bt Beagles BC 52 (Jitesh 13, Tanmay 10).

Girls: DYES Mandya 52 (Sahana 14, Mandara 11, Deepushree 11) bt S. Blues 42(Nidhi 18, Meah 12); Mounts Club 56 (Nakshatra 23) bt DYES Mysore 25(Yashaswini 18).

Coorg Direwolves runs riot against Naveen

Coorg Direwolves HC blanked Naveen HC-A 13-0 in the DS Murthy & Radha Murthy Memorial hockey tournament, on Saturday.

The results: DPS East bt East India HC 7-4; DPS East bt Team Wildboar 5-2; Coorg Direwolves HC bt Naveen HC-A 13-0; Aristocrat HC bt Bengaluru Blues HC-A 9-6; East India HC bt Bangalore United HC 12-4; Flying HC bt Naveen HC 14-4; Southern Alpha SA bt Bengaluru Blues HC-B 7-4; Coorg Direwolves HC-A bt Bengaluru HC-A 9-5.

Sharath nets two for Kickstart

Sharath Rajkumar scored a brace as Kickstart FC beat Kodagu FC 3-1 in the C. Puttaiah Memorial football tournament on Saturday.

The results: Kickstart FC 3 (Sharath Rajkumar 7, 37, Abhishek Shanker Powar 13) bt Kodagu FC 1 (Gagandeep Mewa Singh 65); BFC 1 (F. Lalremtluanga 87) bt Roots FC 0.